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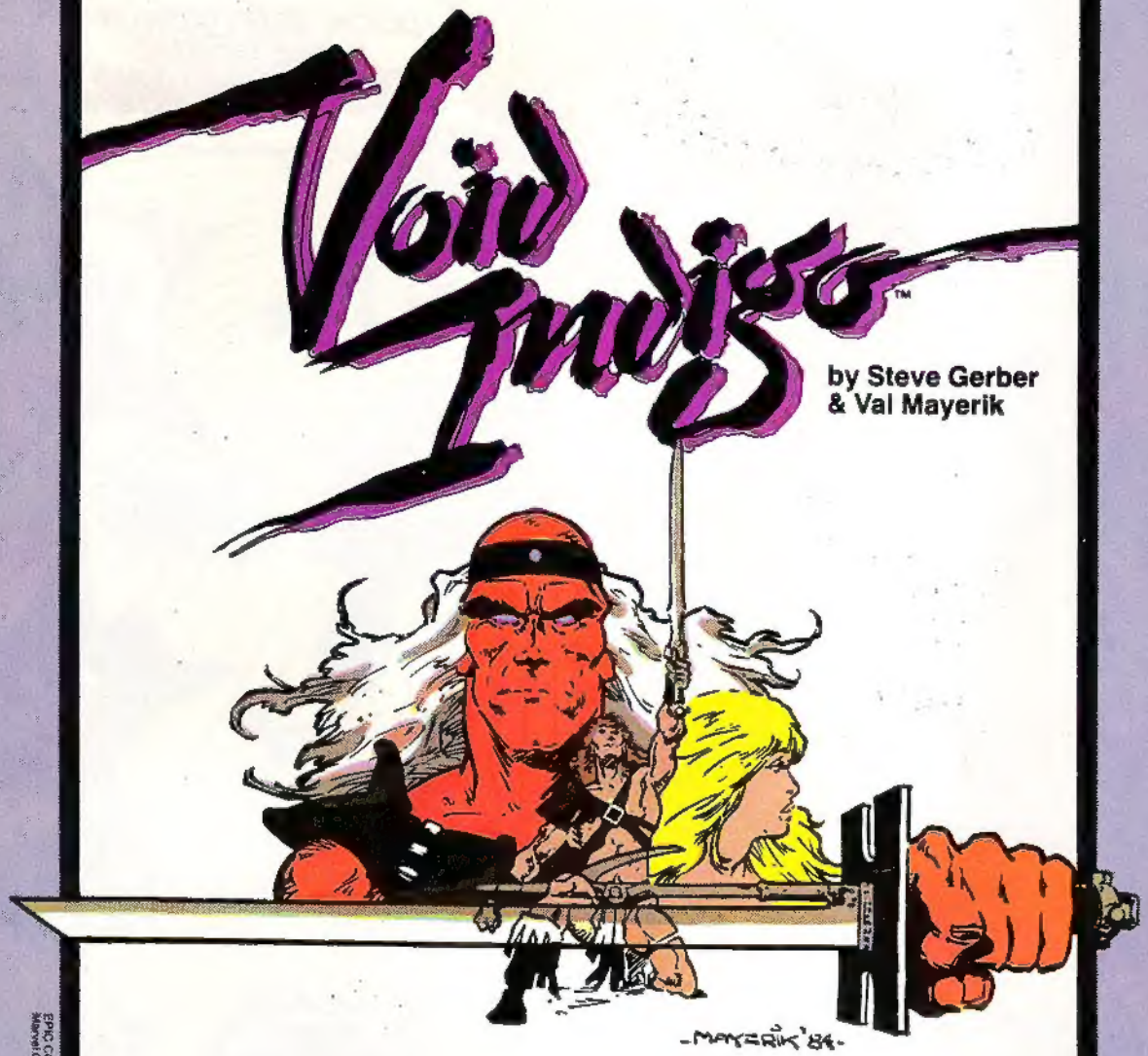

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EDITORIAL

"New Stars in the Marvel Universe!" by **Jim Salicrup**

Why, you may be wondering, are we devoting almost an entire issue of **MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE** to a bunch of kiddie books called Star Comics? After all, isn't **MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE** designed especially for the sophisticated, mature tastes of the Marvel Comics connoisseur? Well, that's *exactly* why this issue is all about Star Comics! We're convinced that you're able to appreciate a good comic regardless of whether it's a super hero yarn or not! And Star Comics are good comics. Editors **Tom DeFalco** and **Sid Jacobson** have rounded up the best writers and artists in the field and have unleashed a flood of characters that will amaze and amuse you.

This isn't the first time mighty Marvel's tried its hand at material for a younger audience. Marvel's been at it for years, with titles such as **SPIDEY SUPER STORIES**, **PIZZAZZ**, **CRAZY MAGAZINE**, a whole line of Hanna-Barbara titles, **THE SMURFS**, **BLIP**, **ANNIE**, **DENNIS THE MENACE**, and for the past few years **MARVEL BOOKS**. This commitment to quality comics for kids continues with Star Comics's **WALLY THE WIZARD**, **ROYAL ROY**, **TOP DOG**, **PLANET TERRY**, **THE MUPPETS**, **FRAGGLE ROCK**, **HEATHCLIFF**, **THE EWOKS**, **MARVEL TAILS**, **THE GET ALONG GANG**, **STRAWBERRY SHORTCAKE** and more! There are those who believe that this type of comic is great because it introduces new readers to the wonderful world of comics. But I say — new reader or old — check 'em out for yourself! You may discover that you're never too old for a good, fun-filled comic book!

JIM SALICRUP

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MARVEL COMING ATTRACTIONS

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SECONDS LATER, OUTSIDE...
THEY WON'T GET AWAY WITH THIS!
THEY'RE GOING TO PAY... ALL OF DOOM'S TOADIES! ESPECIALLY THE WRECKING CREW!
LET'S GO GET 'EM!
AYE!
NO!
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The greatest battle of all time awaits in the pages of **SECRET WARS**!

Here is a complete checklist of what's happening in all the Marvel titles bearing a November cover date. **A Limited Series** is a title which will only run for a specific number of issues. **A Direct Sales** title is available only at selected outlets. **Shipping date** refers to the date the comics leave the printer. A word to the wise — please tell your comics specialty shop owner which titles you want to buy as soon as possible! Marvel Comics sell out so fast that unless your comics shop owner knows which titles you want, you may not get them!

Titles shipping **July 3**, on sale **July 24**:

THE THING #17 — "Blind Ambition" is what drives our ever-lovin' blue-eyed **Benjy** to search for his lost love, **Tarianna**, on the planet of the Secret Wars! Problem is, first he must reckon with **the Reckoner** . . . and Ben can't even *see* him — or anything else, for that matter! Written by **Mike Carlin**, pencils by **Ron Wilson**, inks by **Joe Sinnott**! 60¢.

DAREDEVIL #212 — **Daredevil** must choose sides! Is he with . . . the **Kingpin of Crime**? Or is he with . . . **Micah Synn**, a barbarian with a heart of pure ice? Talk about no-win situations! Written by **Denny O'Neil**, penciled by **David Mazzucchelli**, and inked by **Danny Bulanadi**. 60¢.

NEW MUTANTS #21 — Double-sized issue! The girls invite their friends from Salem Center to **Professor X's** mansion for an all-night slumber party! Sounds like fun and games, right? Not when **Warlock** turns up as a gate-crasher! And he's not visiting for a pillow fight, either! "Slumber Party" is written by **Chris Claremont**, and penciled and inked by **Bill Sienkiewicz**! 48 pp. $1.

THE MUPPETS TAKE MANHATTAN (Limited Series #1, 2 & 3 — Adapted from the soon-to-be-released movie! It's the whole gang — **Miss Piggy, Kermit, Gonzo, Fozzie** and **Rowlf** — *plus* the marriage you thought you'd never see! Adapted by **Stan Kaye**, with art by **Dean Yeagle**. 60¢. (All three issues will be released simultaneously to direct sales outlets only.)

MARVEL SUPER HEROES: SECRET WARS (Limited Series) #7 — Introducing a major new character to the Marvel Universe: the *all-new* **Spider-Woman**! She has a lot to do with **Spider-Man's** new costume, so this is an issue not to be missed! Also, **the She-Hulk** takes on the bad guys alone — and **Doc Doom** fights **Galactus**! Need we say more? We thought not! Written by **Jim Shooter**, penciled by **Mike Zeck** and inked by **John Beatty**. 75¢

WEST COAST AVENGERS (Limited Series) #3 — What happens when half the **Avengers** ditch New York for California? Why, they set up a branch office, of course! This series is more fun than a jacuzzi, and not nearly as expensive! This issue, **Wonder Man** and **Tigra** go it alone against **Graviton**, with their pride — and possibly the **Avengers'** future — at stake! "And How Shall the Mighty Fall" is written by **Roger Stern**, penciled by **Bob**

Hall and inked by **Brett Breeding**! 75¢.

MACHINE MAN (Limited Series) #3 — De-activated by his enemies for nearly 40 years, **Machine Man** wakes up in the year 2020 — and boy is he mad! Some things never change, though: **Gears Garvin** is still alive, and there's this second-generation super hero running around who looks *awfully* familiar! Don't even think of missing "Rime of the Ancient Wrecker," written by **Tom DeFalco**, penciled by **Herb Trimpe** and inked by **Barry Windsor-Smith**! 75¢.

CONAN THE KING #25 — Not only would **Conan's** daughter rather marry a **Black Dragon** than her betrothed — but her intended father-in-law, **Baron Maloric**, wants to see **Conan** dead! Written by **Alan Zelenetz**, penciled by **Marc Silvestri** and inked by **Geoff Isherwood**! 48 pp. $1.00.

PETER PARKER, THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN ANNUAL #4 — Featuring a look back into Aunt May's youth, as she is haunted today by an old love — and a secret from her past! How will her web-slinging nephew save her from the dangers without — and within? Written by **Bill Mantlo**, with breakdowns by **Kerry Gammill** and finishes by **Carlos Garzon**! Plus — a solo tale of the **Black Cat**, written by **Bob DeNatale**, with art by **Ron Randall**.

Titles shipping **July 10**, on sale **July 31**:

AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #258 — At last, the answer to the question on everybody's minds: Just what makes **Spidey's** new costume work? **Reed Richards** is going to find out — and you will too if you read this issue! This Marvel milestone also guest-stars the **Human Torch**, and is written by **Tom DeFalco**, penciled by **Ron Frenz** and inked by **Joe Rubinstein**! 60¢.

CAPTAIN AMERICA #299 — The fights you thought you'd never see! **Falcon** and **Nomad** take on the **Sisters of Sin**! **Baron Zemo** dukes it out with **Mother Superior**! **Captain America** and the **Red Skull** . . . just sit around and watch? There's a reason for this, of course — and it's in "The Bunker," written by **J.M. DeMatteis**, penciled by **Paul Neary** and embellished by **Roy Richardson**! 60¢.

THOR #349 — Finally — the awful secret behind the forger with the sound of "Doom" — revealed! He needs but one thing to wield the power to destroy the universe, but **Odin** himself guards it! Can the combined forces of the mightiest Norse gods stop the "doom" forger from taking it? Read this story, written, penciled and inked by **Walt Simonson** — we guarantee it's one of his best! 60¢.

INDIANA JONES #23 — It's the archeological treasure of the century, and **Indy** knows where to find it! But he must infiltrate a well-guarded island controlled by a mad dictator, trek through dangerous enemy territory, and then dive to the bottom of a rocky waterfall! Piece of cake, right? **Herb Trimpe** wrote, penciled, and inked this incredible tale! 60¢

POWER PACK #4 — Even *if* the **Power Pack** *can* rescue their parents and fight their way free from the hideous **Snarks**, they've *still* got to find a way home . . . too bad Earth is hundreds of light-years away! It's action and adventure with the new generation of super heroes — for readers of all generations! Written by **Louise Simonson**, penciled by **June Brigman**, and inked by **Bob Wiacek**! 60¢

MICRONAUTS #2 — **Huntarr** — as you've never seen him before! See an astonishing *change* in one of the Micronauts! It's certain to keep everyone talking for months! Also — just *who* are the **Makers**, and what do they have to do with the **Microverse**? "Metamorphosis" is written by **Peter B. Gillis**, penciled by **Kelley Jones**, and inked by **Bruce Patterson**! 60¢.

CRYSTAR #10 — There's a subtle power struggle afoot between new warrior **Bekk** and group leader **Crystar** — and at a time when the **Crystal Warriors** least need it, because both the **Malachite Men** and the **Molten Legion** are on the warpath! Read "Loss," written by **Jo Duffy**, penciled by **Ricardo Villamonte** and inked by **Dave Simons**! Featuring a full-color cover painted by **Michael Golden**! 60¢.

SUB-MARINER (Limited Series) #3 — At last — the **Sub-Mariner** series you've been waiting for! **Prince Namor** rescues the woman he loves from the clutches of kidnappers — only to have his own subjects in **Atlantis** disown him! "The Twain Shall Meet" is written by **J.M. DeMatteis**, penciled by **Bob Budiansky** and inked by **Danny Bulanadi**! 75¢.

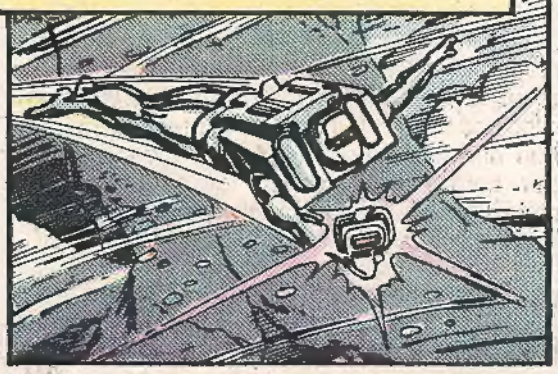
FANTASTIC FOUR ANNUAL #18 — The final outcome of the **Kree-Skrull War** will be decided by a single fight . . . between *one Kree* and *one Skrull*! The fate of galaxies may hang in the balance! Even more, this fight may disrupt the *wedding of the decade*! The **Inhumans** guest-star, and the **X-Men** make a cameo appearance! **John Byrne** plotted it, **Mark Gruenwald** wrote it, **Mark Bright** penciled it and **Mike Gustovich** inked it — so *you* should buy it! 48 pp. $1.00.

SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN #105 — Talk about choices! Trapped in a wintery wasteland without food or water, **Conan** and his band must face starvation — or something far, far worse! "The Mill" is written by **Don Krarr**, penciled by **Gary Kwapisz** and inked by **Bob Camp**. $1.50. A Marvel Magazine.

Titles shipping **July 17**, on sale **August 7**:

INCREDIBLE HULK #301 — Savage, bestial . . . and brutal, the **Hulk** is dropped into a world he can barely comprehend! The Green Goliath finds himself at "The Crossroads," courtesy of **Bill Mantlo**, writer,

Rom by Ditko and Tom Palmer!



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Sal Buscema, layouts, and **Gerry Talaoc**, inker! 60¢.

AVENGERS #249 — Snow — in the middle of summer? That's right — and it's up to **the Avengers** to stop it before the whole world freezes to death! This issue ties in with the current issues of **Thor**, and guest-stars **the Fantastic Four** and **Hercules**! Written by **Roger Stern**, with breakdowns by **Al Milgrom** and finishes by **Joe Sinnott**! 60¢.

CONAN THE BARBARIAN #164 — As of this writing, the details of this month's **CONAN** are not available. 60¢.

MARVEL TALES #169 — **J. Jonah Jameson** offers a $1,000 reward for the capture of a burglar — and then has fits when he finds out who may collect it! How about the fateful engagement of **Betty Brant** to **Ned Leeds**? Well, it's all here! First presented in **AMAZING SPIDER-MAN** #30, "The Claws of the Cat," is written by **Stan Lee** and drawn by **Steve Ditko**! Do not miss! 60¢.

X-MEN #187 — Trapped in Dallas by a freak Asgardian blizzard — created by the **Casket of Ancient Winters**, for you **Thor** buffs! — **Storm** and **Forge** stand alone against . . . **the Dire Wraiths**! "Wraithkill" is written by **Chris Claremont**, penciled by **John Romita, Jr.** and inked by **Dan Green**!

ROM #60 — The Diabolical **Dire Wraiths** are becoming less careful about their Earthly subterfuge . . . and one of their victims has survived to tell about them! Read the story through "The Eyes of a Child." **Bill Mantlo**, writer, **Steve Ditko**, breakdowns. Cover by **Butch Guice**. 60¢.

POWER MAN AND IRON FIST #111 — "Who Is Captain Hero?" That's what **Luke** and **Danny** have to find out — because this erratic new super hero wants to join **Heroes For Hire**! This issue is penciled by **Greg LaRocque** and inked by **Jerry Acerno** — and introduces new regular writer **Jim Owsley**! 60¢.

G.I. JOE #29 — It's absolutely true: **G.I. JOE** is one of Marvel's best-selling titles on newsstands from coast to coast, every month! Pick up this month's issue — and find out why! Written by **Larry Hama**, penciled by **Frank Springer**, and inked by **Andy Mushynsky**! 60¢.

TEMPLE OF DOOM (Limited Series) #3 — The final chapter in the Marvel adaptation of the new **Steven Spielberg** movie, starring **Harrison Ford** as **Indiana Jones**! Adapted by **David Micheline**, penciled by **Butch Guice** and inked by **Ian Akin** and **Brian Garvey**! 75¢.

THE LAST STAR FIGHTERS (Limited Series) #2 — Do you think you're pretty good at video games? Meet **Alex Rogan** — a fellow who's *so* good at video games that a high score gets him recruited as the savior of the universe! But will he have enough quarters to do it? It's based on the soon-to-be-released movie of the same name, and we *know* you'll like it! Adapted by **Bill Mantlo**, penciled by **Bret Blevins** and inked by **Tony Salmons**! 75¢.

MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE #20 — Our Founding Fathers would most certainly have read **MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE** had it been available in the 18th century! Why? Because it gives you the first scoop on your favorite characters, creators and comics! And it's now on Mando stock, to boot! So declare your independence from ignorance — reserve your copy of **MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE** today! A Marvel Magazine. Direct Sales only. Only 35¢.

THOR ANNUAL #12 — Introducing the half-brother that **Thor** never knew he had! His name is **Vidar**, and he needs the help of the thunder god to avenge the murder of his wife — no easy task when the murderers are storm giants! Can **Thor** do it? And what will happen if he can't? Written by **Alan Zelenetz**, with pencils by **Bob Budiansky**. 48 pp. $1.00.

MARVEL FANFARE #17 — Still the only magazine of its kind on the market! This issue presents part two of the "Skywolf" saga, written by **Marv Wolfman**, penciled by **Dave Cockrum**, inked by **Joe Sinnott**. Also: **the Hulk** as you've never seen him before, written by **David Anthony Kraft**, with art by **Tony Salmons**! High-quality Hudson paper. Direct Sales only. $1.50.

GRAPHIC NOVEL #12 — **VOID INDIGO** — A story of savage sorcery and barbarism which spans millenia from cataclysmic Atlantis to modern-day Los Angeles heralds **Steve Gerber's** return to Marvel in splendid, exotic fashion. Fully-painted art by **Val Mayerik**! Direct Sales only.

Titles shipping July 24, on sale August 14:

FANTASTIC FOUR #272 — We all know who **Reed Richards** is — or do we? Does **Reed** *himself* know? Find the shocking revelation in "Who is Reed

Richards," written, penciled and inked by **John Byrne**! Plus — a previously unseen side of a major Marvel *villain*, to boot! 60¢.

MARVEL TEAM-UP #147 — **Spider-Man** and **the Human Torch** against the menace of the vengeance-obsessed **Black Abbott**! What he can do to your body and soul is unspeakable! Written by **Cary Burkett**, penciled by **Greg LaRocque**, inked by **Mike Esposito**! 60¢.

IRON MAN #188 — **Tony Stark** is holed up in his lab, working on a project that has the new **Iron Man, James Rhodes**, more than a little worried! Does it mean **Rhodey** will have to give up the armor? It had better not — the **Brothers Grimm** are gunning for his metallic hide, and that's no fairy tale! "And Grimm Shall Be Their Name" is written by **Denny O'Neil**, guest-penciled by **Don Perlin** and inked by **Steve Mitchell** — and not to be missed under any circumstances! 60¢.

PETER PARKER, THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #96 — The stunning conclusion! It looks like ther's only one way to stop **Silvermane** — and **Dagger** will have to die to do it! Featuring **Cloak** and **Dagger**, **Silvermane**, the **Black Cat**, **the Kingpin**, and **the Answer** — and, of course, our friendly neighborhood **Spider-Man**! Written and penciled by **Al Milgrom**, and inked by **Jim Mooney**! 60¢.

THE NEW DEFENDERS #137 — **The New Defenders** face a fight to the finish — with one of their own members! Will **the Gargoyle** have to sacrifice his own life to save that of his friends? Also, more on **Cloud**, one of the most unusual super heroes to be introduced in years! And it's all for six thin dimes! Written by **Peter B. Gillis**, penciled by **Don Perlin** and inked by **Kim DeMulder**! 60¢.

STAR WARS #89 — An all-new post-*Jedi* adventure, presented as only Marvel can present it! What will happen to **Luke** and **Leia** now that the rebels have won the war? It's a major turning point in the **Star Wars** saga — and it guest-stars **Kiro**! And the **Rik Duel** gang! And — hold onto yer hats — **the Ewoks**! Written by **Jo Duffy**, penciled by **Bob Mcleod** and inked by **Tom Palmer**! 60¢.

ALPHA FLIGHT #16 — The search for **Marrina's** mate is finally resolved, and resolved the last way you would expect! Guest-starring **the Sub-Mariner**! And as if that wasn't enough . . . just what *is* going on with **Aurora**, anyway? We'll tell you this issue! **John Byrne** wrote and penciled it, and **Bob Wiacek** inked it — so ya know it's gotta be great! 60¢.

KITTY AND WOLVERINE (Limited Series) #1 — How would you feel if you found out your own father had a dark secret you never suspected? That's what **Kitty Pryde** of **the X-Men** will find out, when she returns home to Chicago to find dear, old daddy tangled in a web of intrigue that leads straight to Japan! Can **Wolverine** help her . . . before it's too late? Written by **Chris Claremont**, and penciled and inked by **Al Milgrom**! 75¢.

The Hulk stalks a macabre new menace in this year's **HULK ANNUAL**! Pencils by **Alan Kupperberg**, inks by **Gerry Talaoc**!

HULK ANNUAL #13 — Trapped in another dimension, **the Hulk** meets a creature that will either help him re-gain part of his lost humanity — or lead the Green Goliath to his doom! Which will it be? "Old Friends" is written by **Bill Mantlo**, penciled by **Alan Kupperberg** and inked by **Gerry Talaoc**! 48 pp. $1.00.

EPIC ILLUSTRATED #26 — Would you believe . . . "The Last Galactus Story"? *Ever*? Well, that's the lead feature this month, courtesy of **John Byrne** and **Terry Austin**! Also, we've got a full-color installment of **Cerebus the Aardvark** by **Dave Sim**, and the conclusions of "The Sacred and Profane" by **Steacy** and **Motter**, and "Apocrypha" by **John** and **Laura Lakey**! Oh yeah, we almost forgot — this is all wrapped in a beautiful full-color painting by **Bill Sienkiewicz**! $2.50. A Marvel Magazine.

STARRIORS (Limited Series) #1 — Exciting first issue! Witness an Earth ruled by robots . . . some of whom discover that their legendary creator, Man, may still exist! "Discovery" is written by **Louise Simonson**, penciled by **Michael Chen**, and inked by **Ian Akin** and **Brian Garvey**. 75¢.

Note: The information that appears in "Coming Attractions" is as complete and accurate as we can manage. Occasionally changes are made after this column is put together. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause. ●

MORE COMING ATTRACTIONS

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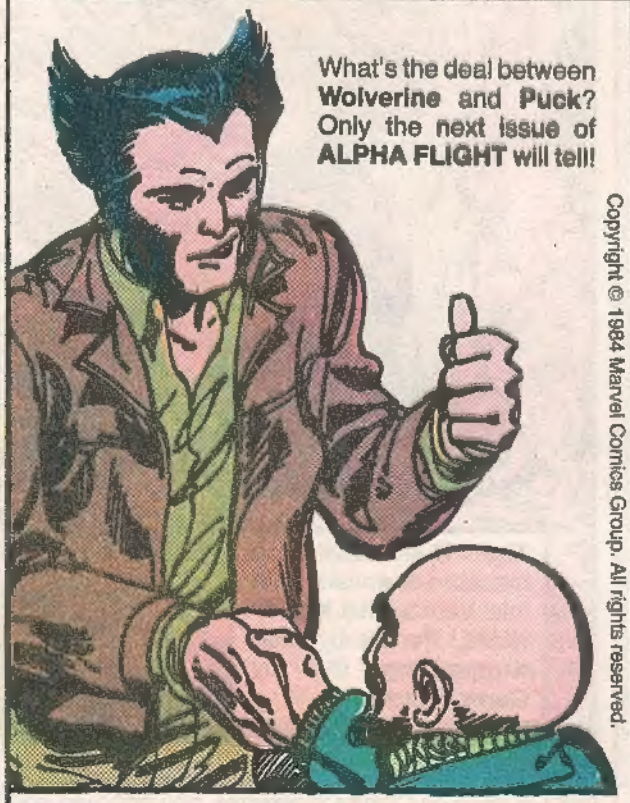

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Shipping in August:

THE THING #18 — By **Harras, Wilson,** and **Sinnott.**

DAREDEVIL #213 — By **O'Neil, Mazzucchelli,** and **Bulanadi.**

NEW MUTANTS #22 — Guest-stars **Warlock, Colossus,** and **Nightcrawler.** By **Claremont** and **Sienkiewicz.**

THE MUPPETS #2 — Movie adaptation by **Kaye** and **Yeagle.**

MARVEL SUPER HEROES: THE SECRET WARS (Limited Series) #8 — Origin of **Spider-Man's** new costume! By **Shooter, Zeck,** and **Beatty.**

WEST COAST AVENGERS (Limited Series) #4 — By **Stern, Hall, Breeding.**

MACHINE MAN (Limited Series) #3 — Features **Iron Man** of 2020. By **DeFalco, Trimpe,** and **Windsor-Smith.**

ICEMAN (Limited Series) #1 — Guest villains **White Light** and **the Idiot.** By **DeMatteis, Kupperberg, Gustovich.**

BUCKEROO BONZAI (Limited Series) #1 — Movie adaptation.

SPIDER-MAN ANNUAL #18 — Guest-scripted by **Stan Lee.** Rest by **DeFalco, Frenz, Layton.**

DREADSTAR #14 — By **Starlin.**

CRASH RYAN #1 — By **R. Harris.**

AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #259 — Features **Mary Jane Watson.** Guest villain **Hobgoblin.** By **DeFalco, Frenz, Rubinstein.**

INDIANA JONES #24 — By **L. Grant.**

POWER PACK #5 — By **L. Simonson, Wilshire,** and **Wiacek.**

MICRONAUTS #3 — By **Gillis, K. Jones,** and **Patterson.**

ALPHA FLIGHT #17 — By **Byrne** and **Wiacek.**

DOCTOR STRANGE #68 — Guest stars **the Black Knight** and **Umar.** By **Stern, Smith,** and **Austin.**

KULL THE CONQUEROR #7 — Written by **Zelenetz.**

THE LAST STAR FIGHTERS (Limited Series) #3 — Concludes movie adaptation by **Mantlo, Blevins, Salmons.**

SUB-MARINER (Limited Series) #4 — By **DeMatteis, Budiansky,** and **Bulanadi.**

BLACK PANTHER (Limited Series) #2 — Introducing **The Supremacists.** By **Gillis, Cowan,** and **DeLaRosa.**

CAPTAIN AMERICA #300 — By **DeMatteis, Neary.**

ROM ANNUAL #3 — Guest stars **the New Mutants.** By **Mantlo, Johnson, Akin** and **Garvey.**

SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN #106 — Features **Captain Bor'aqh Sharaq.** By **Fleisher** and **J. Buscema.**

ALIEN LEGION #4 — Features **Torrie Montroc** and **Sarigar,** by **Zelenetz, Cirocco,** and **Austin.** Also **Zeerod** by **Zelenetz** and **Warner.**

MARVEL SUPER SPECIAL #35: **CONAN II** — Movie adaptation by **Fleisher** and **J. Buscema.**

INCREDIBLE HULK #302 — By **Mantlo, S. Buscema,** and **Talaoc.**

CONAN #165 — By **Fleisher** and **J. Buscema.**

MARVEL TALES #170 — **Spidey** by **Lee** and **Ditko.**

X-MEN #188 — By **Claremont, Romita, Jr.,** and **Green.**

ROM #61 — By **Mantlo** and **Ditko.**

POWER MAN AND IRON FIST #112 — By **Owsley.**

G.I. JOE #30 — Guest villains **Zartan** and **the Dreadnox.** By **Hama.**

SHEENA OF THE JUNGLE (Limited Series) #1 — Movie adaptation.

AVENGERS #250 — **The East** and **West Coast Avengers** vs. **Maelstrom.** By **Stern, Milgrom, Sinnott.**

MARVEL AGE #21.

MARVEL GRAPHIC NOVEL #13 — **STARSTRUCK** by **E. Lee** and **M.W. Kaluta.**

FANTASTIC FOUR #273 — By **Byrne.**

MARVEL TEAM-UP #189 — By **L. Simonson, LaRocque,** and **Esposito.**

IRON MAN #189 — Introducing **Termite.** By **O'Neil, McDonnell,** and **Mitchell.**

PETER PARKER, THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #97 — By **Milgrom** and **Mooney.**

NEW DEFENDERS #138 — **Cloud** and **Moondragon** guest-star. By **Gillis, Perlin,** and **DeMulder.**

STAR WARS #90 — By **Duffy, McLeod,** and **Palmer.**

STARRIORS (Limited Series) #2 — **Protectors** vs. **Destructors.** By **L. Simonson, Chen, Akin** and **Garvey.**

KITTY AND WOLVERINE (Limited Series) #2 — Features villain **Ogun**. By **Claremont** and **Milgrom**.
WHAT IF? #48.
CONAN ANNUAL #9 — By **Fleisher** and **Chan**.
X-MEN ANNUAL #8 — By **Claremont** and **Leialoha**.
DOCTOR WHO #3 — By **Mills, Wagner** and **Gibbons**.
SIX FROM SIRIUS #4 — By **Moench** and **Gulacy**.
TIMESPIRITS #1 — By **Perry** and **Yeats**.

Shipping in September:
THE THING #19 — By **Byrne, Wilson**, and **Sinnot**.
DAREDEVIL #214 — By **O'Neil, Mazzucchelli**, and **Bulanadi**.
NEW MUTANTS #23 — By **Claremont** and **Sienkiewicz**.
DAZZLER #35 — By **L. Grant, Isherwood**, and **Colletta**.
MUPPETS #3 — By **Kremer, Yeagle**, and **Rettcher**.
RED SONJA #5 — By **Mantlo** and **Broderick**.
MARVEL SUPER HEROES: SECRET WARS #9 — By **Shooter, Zeck**, and **Beatty**.
MACHINE MAN #4 — By **DeFalco** and **Windsor-Smith**.
ICEMAN #2 — By **DeMatteis, Kupperberg**, and **Gustovich**.
BUCKEROO BANZAI #2 — Movie adaptation by **Mantlo, Texiera**, and **Gil**.
DAZZLER / BEAST #2 — By **Nocenti, Perlin**, and **DeMulder**.
CONAN THE KING #26 — By **Zelenetz, Silvestri**, and **Isherwood**.
CRASH RYAN #2 — By **R. Harris**.
AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #260 — By **DeFalco, Frenz**, and **Rubinstein**.
CAPTAIN AMERICA #301.
THOR #351 — By **W. Simonson**.
INDIANA JONES #25 — By **L. Grant, Vilamonte**, and **Candido**.
POWER PACK #6 — By **L. Simonson, Brigman** and **Wiacek**.
MICRONAUTS #4 — By **Gillis, Jones**, and **Patterson**.
BLACK PANTHER #3 — By **Gillis, Cowan**, and **DeLaRosa**.
TRANSFORMERS #3 — By **Salicrup, Springer**, and **DeMulder**.
CONAN II — Movie adaptation by **Fleisher** and **J. Buscema**.
NEW MUTANTS ANNUAL #1 — By **Claremont** and **McLeod**.
SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN #107.
SISTERHOOD OF STEEL #1 — By **Marx** and **Vosberg**.
INCREDIBLE HULK #303 — By **Mantlo, Buscema**, and **Talaoc**.
AVENGERS #251 — By **Stern, Milgrom** and **Sinnott**.
CONAN #166 — By **Fleisher** and **J. Buscema**.
MARVEL TALES #171 — **Spidey** by **Lee** and **Ditko**.

Daredevil penciled by the incredible **David Mazzucchelli!**

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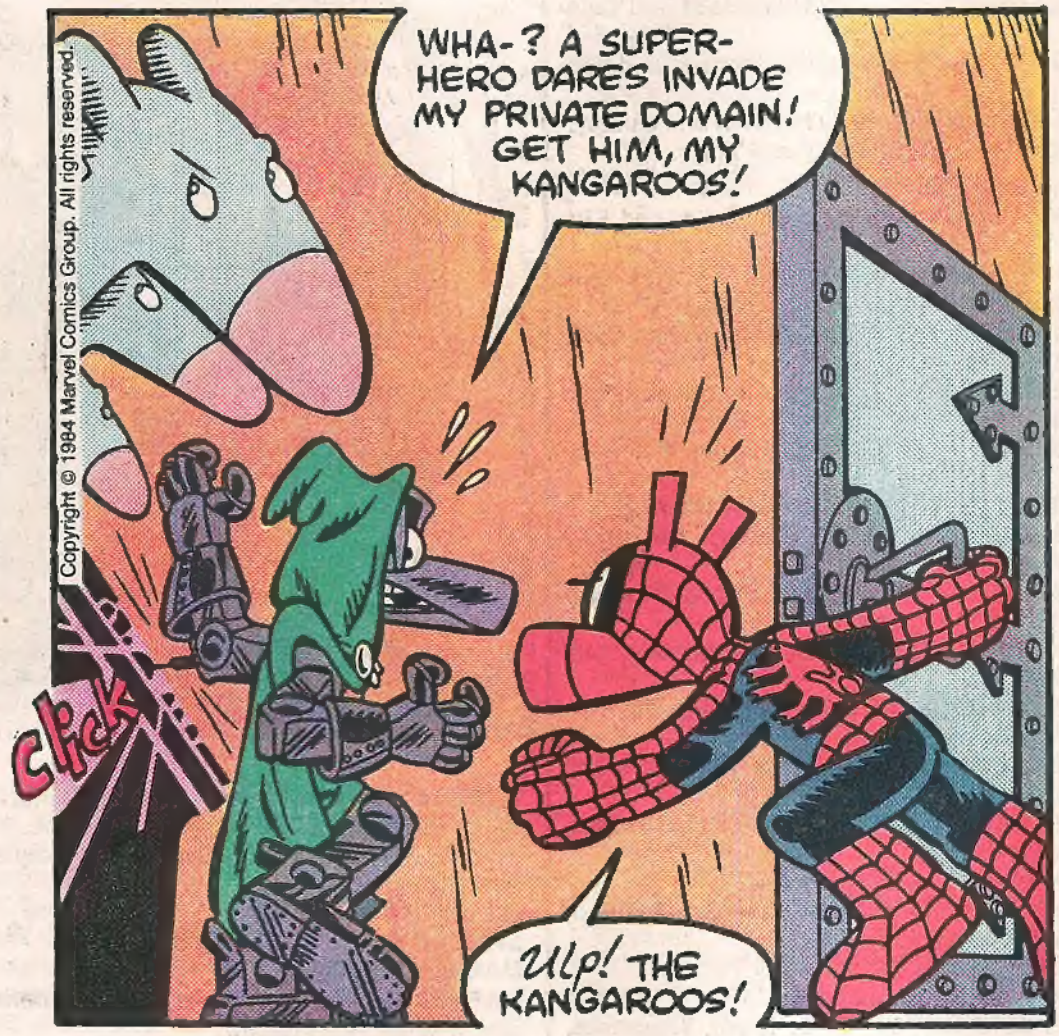
X-MEN #189 — By **Claremont** and **Romita, Jr.**
ROM #62 — By **Mantlo, Ditko**, and **Talaoc**.
POWER MAN #113 — By **Owsley, LaRocque**, and **Acerno**.
G.I. JOE #31 — By **Hama**.
SHEENA, QUEEN OF THE JUNGLE #2.
MARVEL AGE #22.
MARVEL FANFARE #18 — **Captain America** by **Stern, Miller, Rubinstein**.
DREADSTAR #15 — By **Starlin** and **DeLaRosa**.
VOID INDIGO #1 — By **Gerber** and **Mayerik**.
FANTASTIC FOUR #274 — By **Byrne**.
MARVEL TEAM-UP #149 — By **L. Simonson, Blevins**, and **Esposito**.
IRON MAN #190 — By **O'Neil, McDonnell**, and **Mitchell**.
PETER PARKER, THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #98.
DEFENDERS #139.
STAR WARS #91.
ALPHA FLIGHT #18 — By **Byrne**.
STARRIORS #3 — By **L. Simonson, Chen, Akin**, and **Garvey**.
KITTY & WOLVERINE #3 — By **Claremont** and **Milgrom**.
DR. WHO #4 — **Mills, Wagner** and **Gibbons**.
COYOTE #9 — Lead feature by **Englehart, Truog**, and **Howell**; **Djinn** by Englehart and **Ditko**.
EPIC ILLUSTRATED #27 — Cover by **Caldwell**. Stories by **Byrne, Austin, Goodwin, Williamson, Todd, Bodé, Saenz, Conrad, Strnad** and **McPheeters**. ●

NEWSWATCH

Fast balls coming down from the mound!


WHA-? A SUPER-HERO DARES INVADE MY PRIVATE DOMAIN! GET HIM, MY KANGAROOS!
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click
Ulp! THE KANGAROOS!

ITEM! Welcome aboard **Howard Mackie**! **Howard** is Marvel's newest Assistant Editor, replacing the recently-promoted **Mike Carlin** as right-hand man to **Mark Gruenwald**! A native of Brooklyn, New York, **Howard** tells us he's been a comics reader for over twenty years, and he's thrilled to be working at the world's greatest comics company. Best of luck, **Howard**!

ITEM! Look for a brand new videotaped presentation at upcoming comics conventions and comics shops! This video presentation spotlights the highly acclaimed work of **Jim Starlin** and **Berni Wrightson**. You'll see a complete capsule history of **Starlin's METAMORPHOSIS ODYSSEY, THE PRICE,** and **DREADSTAR**, bringing new readers up to date on the cosmic saga. Also featured is **Berni Wrightson**, master of the horrific, revealing all about illustrating the **FRANKENSTEIN** novel. For more information, talk to your comics shop owner!

ITEM! You demanded it—you got it! **PETER PORKER, THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-HAM** will be given his own regular book! Seems the humorous adventures of the character were such a hit in last year's **MARVEL TAILS** that the wall-crawling pig merits his own book in the new Star Comics Line! If that isn't enough, issue #2 will have a story by **Steve Mellor** starring **THE X-BUGS**! Yeeeowch!

ITEM! Ready set go . . . **Rod Whigham**, a **MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE** New Talent alumnus, will pencil **G.I. JOE** #31 and the **LIGHTRUNNER** Graphic Novel . . . **Michael Golden** is busy doing covers for **INDIANA JONES** #23, **KULL** #6, **PETER PORKER** #1 and **SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN** #105 . . . **Chris Warner** will be the artist on the brand-new **MOON KNIGHT, THE FIST OF KHONSHU!** Watch for him! . . . **Andy Mushynsky** is now the regular inker for **G.I. JOE** over **Frank Springer's** pencils, and newcomer **Jerry Acerno**, another **MARVEL AGE** New Talent alum, will be the new regular inker for **POWER MAN AND IRON FIST**!

ITEM! That's all for now . . . play ball! ●

BEHIND THE LINES : SPECIAL REPORT

The Story Behind the AVENGERS/ JLA Team-up Controversy

A long time ago we announced that Marvel and DC were collaborating on a team-up book starring **the Avengers** and **the Justice League of America**. The delays that have plagued this project have become the subject of much talk and confusion. During the past year, people connected with the project have done interviews for various fanzines that give the misimpression that Marvel is responsible for deliberately delaying the project. Here we present the full story behind the difficult time **THE AVENGERS/JLA** book has had. We hope once all the facts are out all conflicts will be settled and the book can finally appear.

Following the phenomenal success of previous **Superman/Spider-Man** team-ups, Marvel and DC signed a contract in 1982 to collaborate on several more such company crossovers. One of these was to star **the Avengers** and **the JLA**. Under the terms of the contract, each company would appoint a staff editor to the project. DC's staff editor for **AVENGERS/JLA** was **Len Wein**; Marvel's was **Jim Shooter**. One company would take responsibility for producing the book and the other for distributing the book; in the case of **AVENGERS/JLA**, DC would produce and Marvel would distribute. Further, the contract stated that "Marvel and DC shall jointly agree on mutually acceptable modifications." **Jim Shooter** and **Jim's** counterpart at DC, Executive Editor **Dick Giordano**, agreed to the contract in early 1982, whereupon **Dick** assigned writer **Gerry Conway** to go ahead and plot the book.

In November of that year, **Jim Shooter** became concerned that so much time had passed and called **Dick** to find out when a plot would be ready to approve. Several of **Jim's** calls went unreturned. After **Jim** sent **Dick** a telegram, though, **Dick** called and said a plot would be on the way.

Four months later, on February 23, 1983, the plot arrived. **Jim** read it and refused to approve it, because it wasn't good enough. **Jim's** letter to **Dick Giordano** of February 25 stated:

> I'm afraid that the first try at **THE AVENGERS/JLA** plot isn't acceptable, or even close. The problems are many, but there's no point in listing them and getting bogged down in details because the whole thing just doesn't make sense. Why is any of this stuff happening (other than because the writer says it is) and why are all these people doing strange things? I find very few solid reasons or motives for the actions of the characters.

Later, **Jim** got a call from **Len Wein**, the DC editor assigned to the project. **Len**, **Jim**, and **AVENGERS** editor **Mark Gruenwald** talked over **Jim's** objections to the plot and some possible solutions. At the end of the call **Len** asked if their general discussion was sufficient to allow **George Pérez** to start penciling the story. **Jim** said no. He insisted upon seeing a revised plot in writing first, as per the contract.

On May 17, **Jim** learned that **George Pérez** had already started penciling, even though no revised plot had been sent. **Jim** immediately called **Dick Giordano** and sent a letter to confirm their conversation. **Jim's** letter dated May 18 stated:

> Around February 25, I received a copy of the proposed story plot. I read it, found it entirely unusable, and sent you a letter to that effect, a copy of which is attached. Shortly afterward, we spoke on the phone and you agreed that the proposed plot was not acceptable, and that a revised plot would be forthcoming. At the end of our conversation, anticipating the possibility of a missed communication on a project this complex, I stated that nothing should be considered approved by Marvel until you received approval in writing from me. I gathered that you understood and agreed.
>
> Some time later, I received a call from **Len Wein** who wanted to discuss my objections to the plot and work out possible solutions. We discussed a few of the flaws in the plot in some detail, but largely spoke only in broad generalities. At the end of our conversation, **Len** asked if I felt comfortable enough with our mutual understanding of the revisions being made to allow work to begin on the art. I said no, emphatically, and insisted upon seeing a written out revised plot. I felt that our discussion had been too general to grant plot approval.
>
> Yesterday, I heard from various sources that **George Pérez** had begun penciling the story, though I still hadn't received a revised plot. I called you immediately . . .
>
> I will be glad to look at copies of the twenty pages that you say **George** has drawn, along with a revised plot. Possibly the pages will be useable or salvageable . . .
>
> Again, no work on this project is to be considered approved until you receive approval in writing from me.

Dick sent **Jim** a revised plot. **Jim** responded to it in a letter dated May 20:

> What we have here is substantially the same plot that I rejected before with a few little touch-ups. As I stated in my first letter, this thing has major problems. It doesn't make sense. It's going to have to be rewritten almost from scratch. Sorry.

Dick sent **Jim Shooter** a letter explaining what happened. This letter, dated May 26, was very courteous, but reflected a misunderstanding of the terms of the collaboration:

> The contract stipulates for example, that each company should appoint a staff editor to

each project, . . . In this case the editors so appointed were **Len Wein** (DC) and **Mark Gruenwald** (Marvel) . . . When the plot was delivered, you decided to become personally involved (counter to our previous team-up experiences) and forced my involvement at a hands-on, editorial level.

In fact, **Mark Gruenwald** was not appointed staff editor for the project. **Jim Shooter** was, and his participation in previous team-ups stands as precedent.

Dick apologized later in the letter for giving **George Pérez** permission to pencil without **Jim Shooter's** written approval of a plot. He explained:

You had some problems with the plot. The motivation for the events was weak. I agreed with you and we set about to fix the plot. When we thought we had it debugged, **Len** called you with an outline of the changes to which you responded positively saying you felt the changes would work. **Len** reported that conversation to me with the request that a new written plot be submitted. I thought this request to be logical but largely a formality and ordered **George Pérez** to start drawing before the new plot was typed. In doing so, I had no intention of ignoring your wishes. I understood your conversation with **Len** to be tacit approval of our modifications and desired only to keep the project moving. I have since apologized for this seeming breach of protocol and trust that this unintentional mistake is not one of the reasons for your rejection.

Also in the letter **Dick** suggested that **Jim** was perhaps too concerned with the quality of the plot, and asked that all plot holes be left to the creative team to resolve:

Incidentally, I'm sure that you recognize the difficulty in producing a script that is *truly* wonderful given the extreme limitations inherent in a team-up venture of this kind; everything and everyone must be left just as we found them and all events and actions must end in a tie. There were plot weaknesses in **Chris's X-MEN/TEEN TITANS** last year but everyone who bought the book (all those people!) seemed not to care. I didn't.

Finally, (and at a more practical level), if you insist on starting all over, we will have to name a new creative team as previous committments will force the withdrawal of all the current team members . . . Further, I must then insist that you supply a detailed, written list of changes requested.

Jim responded in a letter dated May 31. He corrected **Dick's** impression that **Mark Gruenwald** was the official staff editor:

While he was never appointed "official consulting editor" by us, **Mark Gruenwald** tells me that **Len** discussed very basic parameters with him and these are still okay by us. **Mark** insists that beyond fundamental ground rules, he never approved any plot. He is in complete agreement with me that the plots presented to us are unacceptable.

that **Jim's** personal involvement was inappropriate:

I have been involved with each of the crossovers. These are important enough that I think it appropriate to personally approve them. In fact, at the last meeting at which we discussed this, I informed you that I intended to act as Marvel's consulting editor on this project, and all such future projects. In future, I guess this should be put in writing. Please remember in addition, that during the late fall and winter, it was I who called you several times inquiring after the plot.

that any plot was approved:

As far as I can see, our problem is that the plot simply isn't good, in our estimation. You yourself said the plot as first presented wasn't good. The "second" plot was substantially the same as the first, even to the extent that several of the detail changes **Len** and I discussed were not reflected in the "revised" version. If somehow the impression got across that I tacitly approved the plot, I'm sorry. I did not. Currently, the plot is unacceptable to us — as it has been from the first

and responded to **Dick's** warning that the creative team might have to withdraw:

Certainly we were and are happy with the editorial team. The plot is the problem. It must be fixed. I would be sorry to see the team changed or the project delayed, but we must have a plot we both believe to be first rate.

In a second letter dated June 15, **Jim** listed his specific objections to the plot, per **Dick's** request.

Shortly thereafter, **Dick** and **Jim** went to lunch. **Dick** again asked **Jim** to reconsider and put aside his objections, suggesting that the plot need not be the best possible in order to have a successful book. By the end of the lunch, though, **Dick** agreed to provide a new plot. **Dick** promised the new plot within days and said that **Jim** must approve it without delay, or that they would lose **George Pérez's** services.

Days passed, but **Jim** received no plot. **Jim** wrote **Dick** on July 13:

Still no plot. What gives?

Dick Giordano assigned writer **Roy Thomas** to revise the original plot both to take into account **Jim Shooter's** objections and to jive with the twenty-one pages that **George** had already penciled. **Dick** gave **Jim** a copy of this plot at the San Diego Comics Convention on August 5th, and asked for instant approval. **Jim** told **Dick** that he would not and in fact could not give instant approval, explaining that he wanted to give copies of the plot to **AVENGERS** Editor **Mark Gruenwald** and **AVENGERS** writer **Roger Stern** for their comments and advice. **Jim** and **Mark Gruenwald** were on the road for two weeks during the height of the August convention season. Once back in the office,

the week of August 15, **Jim** immediately read the plot, gave a copy to **Mark Gruenwald**, and sent a copy to **Roger Stern**. **Jim** informed **Dick** that, because of the research and careful consideration necessary, it would take some time to read and return the plot. **Jim** awaited **Mark's** and **Roger's** responses, which he received on or about September 20, 1983.

On August 23, though, **George Pérez** did an interview with **David Kraft** for **Comics Interview** #6 in which he expressed tremendous frustration at having penciled twenty-one pages of story only to have the book held up again, although he did not acknowledge in that interview that misunderstanding on the part of DC personnel caused him to pencil before approval. In this interview, **George** made many vehement statements doubting **Jim Shooter's** intentions and editorial abilities. **George** stated that all his contact with **Jim Shooter** and all Marvel personnel was done through **Dick Giordano**, and that several of the calls **Dick** made on **George's** behalf asking for approval or rejection went unanswered. **George** also stated that at the San Diego convention he gave **Dick** the ultimatum that if **Jim** had not approved the plot by the end of the convention he would quit the project; **Dick**, though, convinced **George** to wait a while longer.

George summarized his aggravation in the interview:

> It takes a half an hour to read, and I'm not a fast reader. I couldn't believe **Jim Shooter** did not have a half hour or whatever small amount of time it takes. Because the project is so important, take a half hour of your sleeping time — take a half hour off of going to bed — get it done.

Apparently this and other statements were made in ignorance of the fact that **Jim Shooter** sought the advice of **Mark Gruenwald** and **Roger Stern**, and of the fact that **Jim** kept **Dick** fully informed of his actions.

Angry and needing to schedule his other professional committments, **George Pérez** recalled for **Comics Interview** that since **Dick** had not received an approval or rejection from **Jim Shooter** by 5:00 on August 22, **George** took himself off the project. **George** concluded, "I don't trust **Jim Shooter**."

Also in **Comics Interview** #6, **David Kraft** interviewed **Roy Thomas**. **Roy's** understanding was that **Jim Shooter** was postponing consideration of the plot for an unknown reason. **Roy** offered that "**Mark (Gruenwald)** was the original Marvel editor who approved, for the Marvel side, the basic plot that **Gerry** did, only to have **Shooter** undercut him." This is blatantly incorrect, as can be checked against **Jim Shooter's** correspondence of May 31, above.

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Contrary to the statements made in these interviews, **Jim** at no time stalled nor avoided reading the plot. Further, **Dick Giordano** was informed of **Shooter's** actions and intentions.

In fact, **Jim Shooter** approved the revised plot the week that he received replies from **Mark Gruenwald** and **Roger Stern**. His letter to **Dick**, dated September 28, stated:

> These are the problems with the latest version of the **AVENGERS/JLA** plot:
> **Ant Man** should not be included. He isn't an **Avenger** and would not be involved.
> **Quicksilver** must come from **Attilan**, where he lives, which is on the moon.
> **Thor's** hammer cannot follow a trail through time. He lost all such abilities a while back.
> **Hawkeye** is married now, a fact which should be mentioned in the scene with **Black Canary**.
> **Vision** has demonstrated emotions — he should not be affected by the Shiva Egg because he is non-biological, not non-emotional.
> A **Quicksilver/Flash** race is ludicrous since **Flash** runs at light speed and **Quicksilver** can't even manage the speed of sound. Perhaps **Flash** should race **Captain Marvel** who can attain the speed of light in her energy form.
> **Quicksilver** would also be unable to help **Flash** energize the makeshift cosmic treadmill in any physical way.
> **Firestorm** and **Captain Marvel** are probably <u>not</u> evenly matched as mentioned since **Firestorm** controls nuclear energy and **CM** can become any energy, including nuclear.
> There are other small glitches, but they can be covered in dialogue. They don't affect the pictures.
> Presuming that you correct these minor problems, the only thing remaining to be settled <u>before</u> the plot is given to an artist is the selection of the artist. **Don Heck**, who you said was under consideration, is all right with us. If he's the man you want, go ahead and start. If you wish to propose someone else, we'll be glad to listen.

Two days later, on September 30, **Marv Wolfman** and **George Pérez** did an interview for the British fanzine **Chain Reaction**. **Marv** and **George** again blamed **Jim Shooter** for deliberately delaying his decision to approve the plot. Although **George** did state in this interview that DC and not Marvel had caused him to pencil those twenty-one pages before approval, he remained angry at **Jim**, asserting that **Jim** caused him emotional stress and professional inconvenience. He stated:

> During August **Jim** was constantly being approached and told it was very dangerous as far as holding on to creative personnel was concerned and we needed him to give approval. He had not read the thing, or at least

he would not give us an answer, and he knew it, he was told so, and he waited and waited. . . . just three days ago he finally decides to go ahead after I had already officially resigned from the book. He had made sure that I was off it, and made sure that whatever DC decides to do with **THE JLA AND AVENGERS** it will not sell as well . . . I will not work for anything **Jim Shooter** is putting together . . .

I do not want this taken wrongly because I am a fan of **Don Heck's** work. But **Shooter** knows full well that **Heck** will never sell the book, not because of any inferiority in **Don's** work, it's just that he is not a fan favorite and with a fan book this is definitely important. He is doing everything in his power to sabotage this . . .

I am not going to let **Jim Shooter** get away with this, and I'm going to use every available means to let people know what **Jim's** done. If people don't believe what I say, at least I've gotten it out of my system.

In the same interview, **Marv Wolfman** accused **Jim** of questionable conduct and of causing personal differences between people who work for Marvel and people who work for other comics companies:

It's been set up in such a way that DC would look bad, because all **Jim** could say was that the plot wasn't good and it looks bad for DC. In this case it's not DC's fault, at least the second half of it, which is because **Jim** refused to read the material, or if he did read it, would not tell us he'd read it and would not give approval . . . There is a very logical reason. He doesn't want the team-ups . . .

He has systematically kept people away from a DC/Marvel friendship like we used to have. We used to play cards every Friday night . . . in this case it is one person trying to create a problem . . . **Jim** has gone out of his way to . . . put a wedge between Marvel and every other company.

Marv also incorrectly asserted in this interview that DC was to distribute **THE AVENGERS/JLA** book, and that by causing the book not to be produced, **Jim** would cause DC to lose money. This was entirely a misunderstanding. Under the contract, Marvel, not DC, will distribute **THE AVENGERS / JLA** book.

In a letter to **Frank Plowright**, the editor of **Chain Reaction**, **Jim Shooter** stated, "**George** and **Marv's** speculations about my supposedly Machiavelian manipulations are absurd." The time took to approve the final plot, **Jim** argued, is reasonable by precedent, citing a four-month turn-

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around time for DC to approve a previous **Superman/Spider-Man** plot with no changes or corrections requested.

"When I first heard that **George** was saying these things, I was stunned," **Jim Shooter** told **MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE**. "I was personally hurt. I have always considered **George** a friend. The only explanation I can find for the things he's said about me and my role in the project is that he's been entirely misinformed.

"Yes, I was reminded at the convention that **George** might quit the book. **George** had threatened to quit several times. Two months had elapsed between the first time **George** threatened to quit and my receipt of **Roy Thomas's** revised plot. Frankly, the threat to leave the project as a way to accelerate my decisions had no real credibility.

"But that isn't the point. I really did want **George** to pencil the book. **Don Heck** is a fine artist, but of course **George** was our first choice. He was very important to the project. But the story comes first. I never delayed a decision to approve or reject a plot in order to get **George** off the book. It was out of concern for a quality story that I took the time and care that I did. I needed to be advised by **Mark Gruenwald** and **Roger Stern** because they're **Avengers** experts, and I told **Dick Giordano** so.

"**Marv** suggests that I am to blame for the fact that DC people and Marvel people don't spend much time together anymore. That's unfair and untrue. It probably has more to do with Marvel's moving downtown a while ago, so our offices are no longer a convenient six blocks away.

"All these accusations are upsetting, but they have no basis in fact. They're nonsense."

Since **Jim Shooter** approved the plot at the end of September of 1983, Marvel Comics has received no word whatsoever from DC on the status of the **AVENGERS / JLA** project. As of mid-May of 1984, Marvel has been advised of neither DC's choice of an artist nor the progress of work on the book.

In developing a project as involved as the **AVENGERS/JLA** team-up, it is natural that delays may occur and that the many different parties involved may have problems communicating. However, the accusation that **Jim Shooter** does not want the book to appear, that he willfully wishes to cause bad feelings among his colleagues, and that he neglected his resposibilities toward the project is unfounded and foolish. **Jim Shooter** and all employees of Marvel Comics, have consistently conducted themselves in a completely honest, professional, and adult manner. **Jim** has stated, "I either want a good book or no book at all." We regret deeply that **Jim's** insistence on a quality product has so wrongly been interpreted. Bad feelings between members of the comics creating community make us sad. However, we are hopeful that **THE AVENGERS/JLA** book will appear, and are confident that should it appear it will be an excellent and successful book. We hope we have laid the issue to rest. ●

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by **Andrew Coe**

BLAAAT!

All right, so trumpeters we're not. Wordsmiths, however, we are:

STAR COMICS! A new constellation gleams in the Marvel Comics galaxy! A brand new line of comics is here! And it all begins with a new creation from the folks who brought you **the Muppets**!

We already told you about the Marvel debut of **the Muppets** — this month we introduce the newest product of the stellar partnership between Henson Associates and Marvel Comics: **FRAGGLE ROCK!**

Do you have Home Box Office? Do you have any four- to twelve-year-old friends? Are you a four- to twelve-year-old yourself (bright kid, reading this sophisticated publication)? If you answered yes to any of these questions, please forgive us, because we have to explain a few things to the adults in the audience.

Fraggle Rock is the latest prize-winning kids' TV show from Henson Associates, who brought you *The Muppet Show*. It debuted in January of 1983, and today it's shown in eighty-seven countries. It's the number one show in England, and its theme song is in the top of the pops there. That's the impressive numbers side.

On the impressive imagination and fun side, *Fraggle Rock* presents a whole new set of **Muppets**. They live in a self-contained world of caves and tunnels underneath the lab of **Doc**, an inventor, the only human in the ensemble. *Fraggle Rock*'s inhabitants are little, furry critters called **Fraggles**; a race of tiny, green, bulby workmen named **Doozers**; **Marjory**, the talking and oracle-offering trash heap; and the **Gorgs**, self-styled Rulers of the Universe. **The Fraggles** mostly play and sing. The **Doozers** build intricate crystalline structures like geodesic domes, moving sidewalks, art deco houses, and the giant mushrooms of Doozer City. The **Gorgs** garden and spout a lot of hot air. Many of the stories have to do with the complicated interdependence of the various races in Fraggle Rock. The puppet characters (except Doc) are manipulated by the usual gang of Henson Associates puppeteers. One advance in Henson's marvelous puppeteering technology is that the **Doozers** are actually tiny computer- and radio-controlled robots! *Fraggle Rock* is light, fun, musical, and exciting.

Fraggle Rock is Henson Associates' return to children's broadcasting following the phenomenal success of *The Muppet Show*. Said **Muppets** founder **Jim Henson**, "We wanted to do something with characters that

you would care about, getting into situations that would touch on real things and real problems."

The genesis of *Fraggle Rock* was the Henson Associates staff getting together in small groups and yakking, according to Conceptual Designer **Michael Frith**. "As our concept for *Fraggle Rock* developed," explained **Michael**, "it became a fantasy world which could translate into any medium — books, TV, or comics. We think *Fraggle Rock* talks to kids on an international level despite differences in culture. The inhabitants of *Fraggle Rock* live in a world which transcends human's boundaries. We think *Fraggle Rock* is the most literate idea to come from a TV production house. It is perfect for a comic book!"

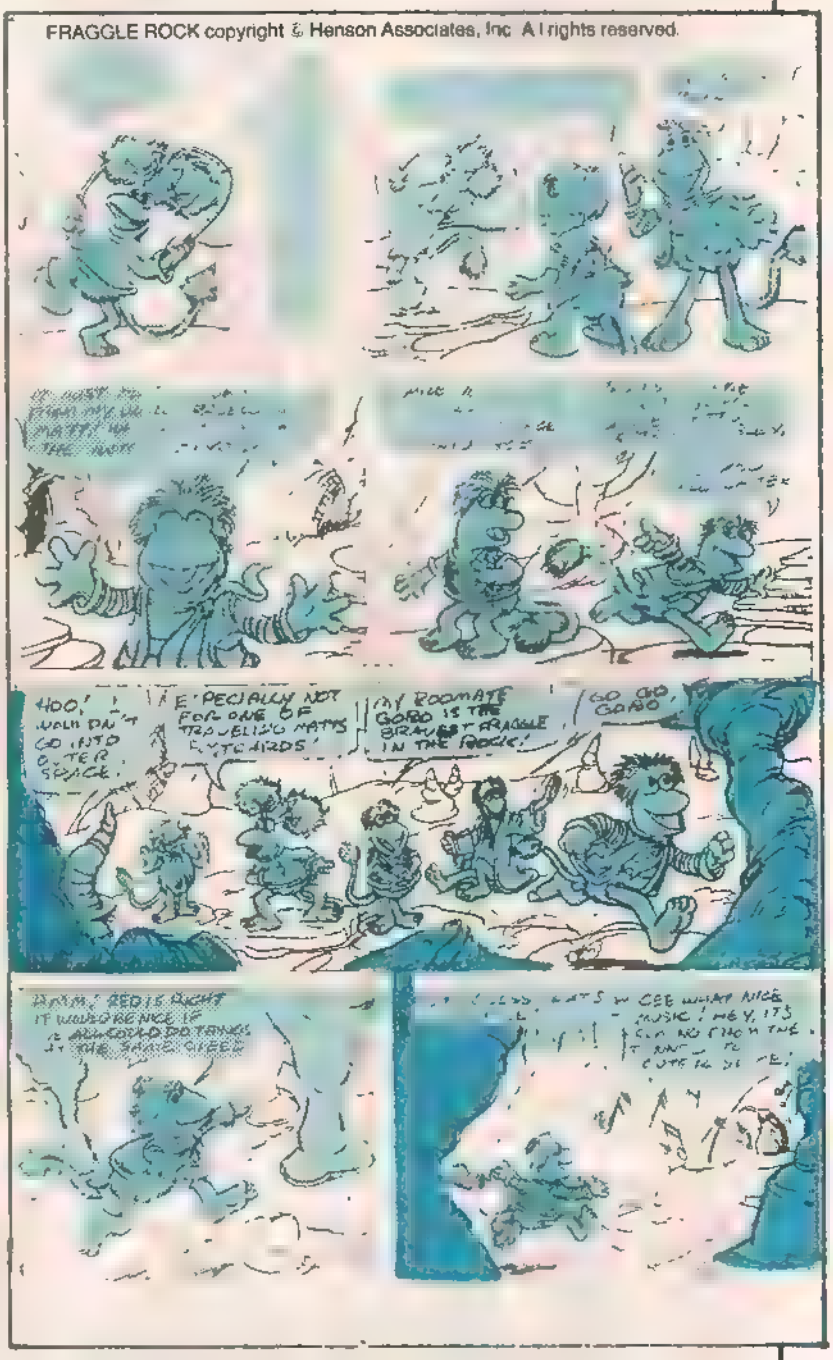
Star Comics' **FRAGGLE ROCK** series will begin in October and be issued bimonthly. The creative staff is a veteran team: **Stan Kaye**, writer, **Jacqueline Rottcher**, inker, and **Marty Taras**, penciller.

Marty Taras has been an animator for fifty years and has compiled an impressive list of credits. Marty originated the character of **Baby Huey** for Paramount, he animated *Heidi* for Hanna-Barbera and *Lord of the Rings* for **Ralph Bakshi**, and has directed a series of prize-winning commercials. He also pencilled and wrote **BABY HUEY** for Harvey Comics, where he met the super-talented **Sid Jacobson**, now editor of the Star Comics Line. **Sid** asked **Marty** to try out for **FRAGGLE ROCK**, and **Marty** got the job.

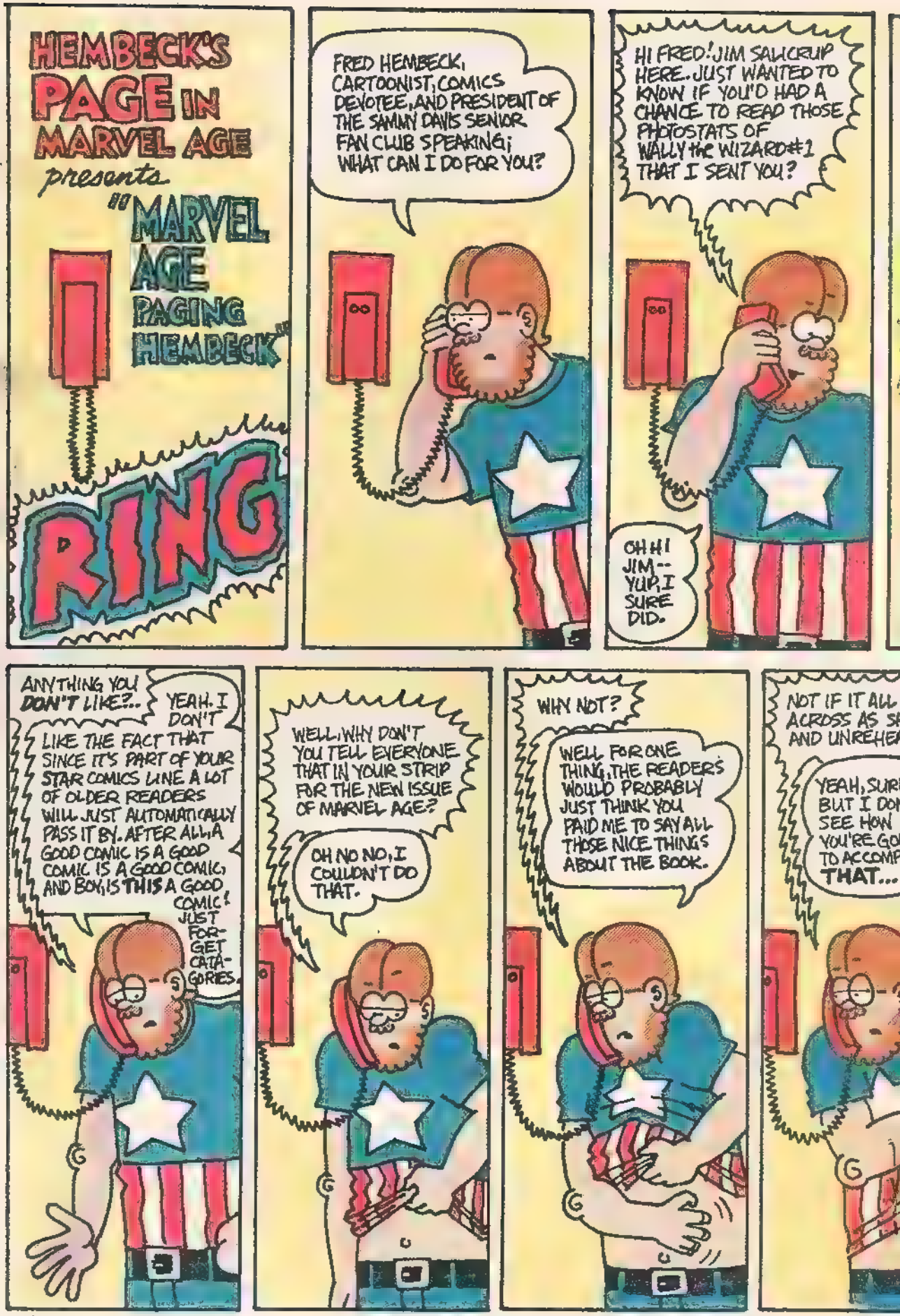
"*Fraggle Rock* is refreshingly different," **Marty** told **MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE**. "The creatures in it are all caricatures of people you'd meet in real life. They're delightfully nonsensical in their own serious way. Even though they're based on puppets, I think of them as real people when I draw them. You feel their roundness, their human quality. It's a beautiful concept and will make a beautiful series."

We introduced the multi-talented master caricaturist **Stan Kaye** in our coverage of **THE MUPPETS TAKE MANHATTAN** in **MARVEL AGE** #17. "**Fraggle Rock** is written for a young audience," said **Stan**. "The essence of the story is kids playing and how their games turn out. Usually I start to write the stories with a moral in mind. The challenge is to conceive an exciting story, keeping in mind the quiet nature of the characters' interconnected little world. It's tough — but fun!"

In closing, when **FRAGGLE ROCK** goes on sale this fall a new era in comics will begin — when the latest and greatest creations from **Jim Henson** inaugurate the all-new line of . . . **STAR COMICS!**


FRAGGLE ROCK copyright © Henson Associates, Inc. All rights reserved.
HOO, I WALN DA GO INTO OUTER SPACE!
ESPECIALLY NOT FOR ONE OF TROUBLING MATHS TYTOAIRDS!
MY ROOMATE GOBO IS THE BRAVEST FRAGGLE IN THE ROCK!
GO GO GOBO!
DAMN, RED IS RIGHT IT WOULD BE NICE IF IT ALL COULD DO TOWARD THE SAME GOAL!
LET'S SEE WHAT NICE MUSIC I HEY, IT'S CLOSE NO FINISH THE

An original page of **FRAGGLE ROCK** artwork by **Marty Taras**.


HEMBECK'S PAGE IN MARVEL AGE presents "MARVEL AGE PAGING HEMBECK"
RING
FRED HEMBECK, CARTOONIST, COMICS DEVOTEE, AND PRESIDENT OF THE SAMMY DAVIS SENIOR FAN CLUB SPEAKING; WHAT CAN I DO FOR YOU?
HI FRED! JIM SALICRUP HERE. JUST WANTED TO KNOW IF YOU'D HAD A CHANCE TO READ THOSE PHOTOSTATS OF WALLY the WIZARD #1 THAT I SENT YOU?
OH HI JIM-- YUP, I SURE DID.
ANYTHING YOU DON'T LIKE?..
YEAH. I DON'T LIKE THE FACT THAT SINCE IT'S PART OF YOUR STAR COMICS LINE A LOT OF OLDER READERS WILL JUST AUTOMATICALLY PASS IT BY. AFTER ALL, A GOOD COMIC IS A GOOD COMIC, AND BOY, IS THIS A GOOD COMIC! JUST FORGET CATAGORIES.
WELL, WHY DON'T YOU TELL EVERYONE THAT IN YOUR STRIP FOR THE NEW ISSUE OF MARVEL AGE?
OH NO NO, I COULDN'T DO THAT.
WHY NOT?
WELL FOR ONE THING, THE READERS WOULD PROBABLY JUST THINK YOU PAID ME TO SAY ALL THOSE NICE THINGS ABOUT THE BOOK.
NOT IF IT ALL
ACROSS AS S
AND UNREHE
YEAH, SUR
BUT I DO
SEE HOW
YOU'RE GO
TO ACCOMP
THAT...

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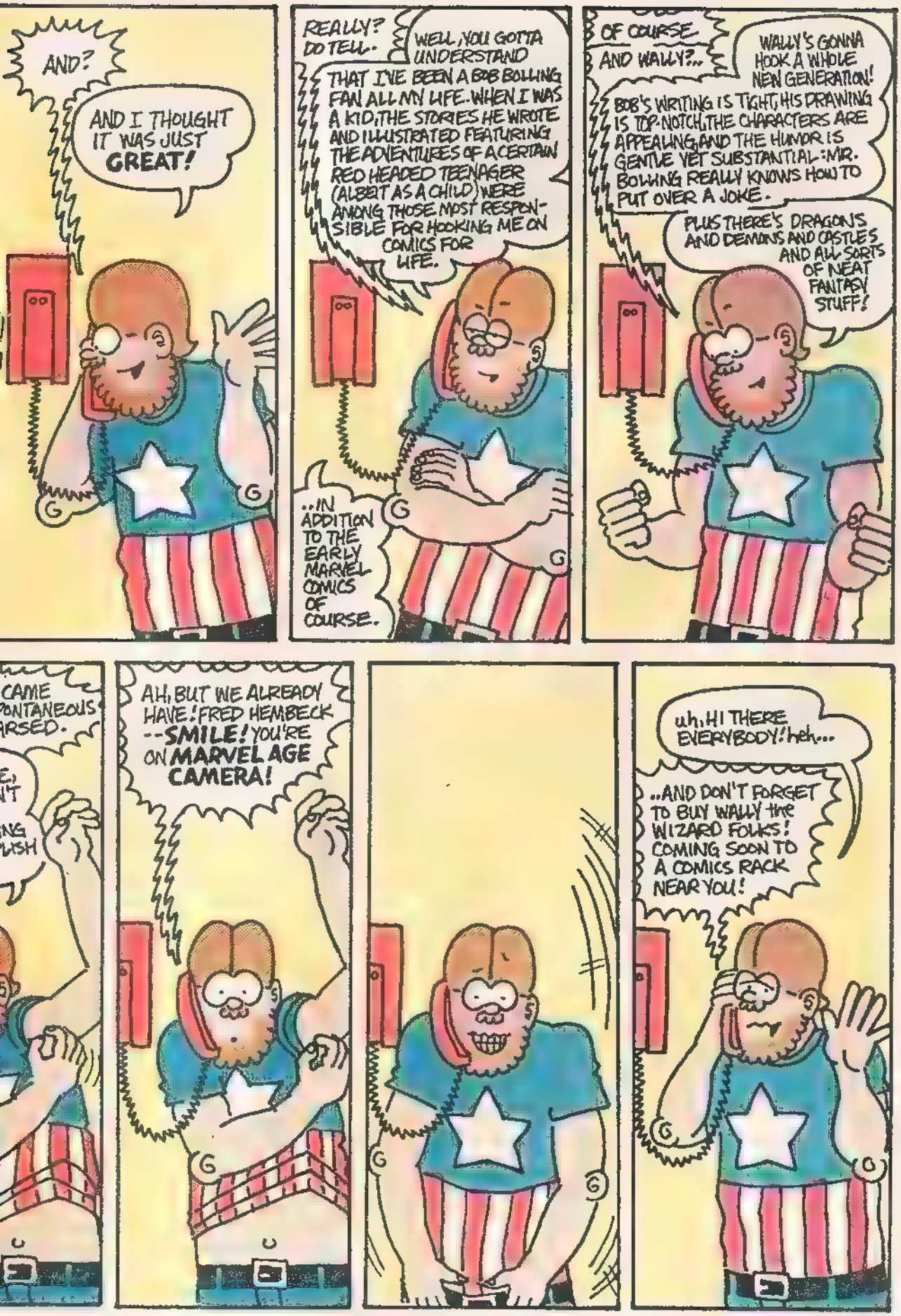
AND?
AND I THOUGHT IT WAS JUST GREAT!
REALLY? DO TELL.
WELL, YOU GOTTA UNDERSTAND THAT I'VE BEEN A BOB BOLLING FAN ALL MY LIFE. WHEN I WAS A KID, THE STORIES HE WROTE AND ILLUSTRATED FEATURING THE ADVENTURES OF A CERTAIN RED HEADED TEENAGER (ALBEIT AS A CHILD) WERE AMONG THOSE MOST RESPONSIBLE FOR HOOKING ME ON COMICS FOR LIFE.
..IN ADDITION TO THE EARLY MARVEL COMICS OF COURSE.
OF COURSE
AND WALLY?..
WALLY'S GONNA HOOK A WHOLE NEW GENERATION!
BOB'S WRITING IS TIGHT, HIS DRAWING IS TOP-NOTCH, THE CHARACTERS ARE APPEALING, AND THE HUMOR IS GENTLE YET SUBSTANTIAL - MR. BOLLING REALLY KNOWS HOW TO PUT OVER A JOKE.
PLUS THERE'S DRAGONS AND DEMONS AND CASTLES AND ALL SORTS OF NEAT FANTASY STUFF!
CAME
ONTANEOUS
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E,
NT
NG
USH
AH, BUT WE ALREADY HAVE! FRED HEMBECK --SMILE! YOU'RE ON MARVEL AGE CAMERA!
uh, HI THERE EVERYBODY! heh...
..AND DON'T FORGET TO BUY WALLY the WIZARD FOLKS! COMING SOON TO A COMICS RACK NEAR YOU!

The MARVEL AGE Interview: Tom DeFalco

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by Jim Massara

Tom DeFalco is one of the unsung heroes at Marvel Comics — and he'd just as soon keep it that way. "I'd prefer to keep myself invisible, away from the public eye," **DeFalco** says. "I'm a typewriter jockey, not a showman."

Tom started in the comics field in 1972 as a proofreader and later, a writer for Archie Comics, where until recently nobody was credited in print for his work. When **DeFalco** began writing for Marvel in 1979, readers first took notice of his name and his work. **Tom** gained wide recognition as the first editor to coordinate continuity between the **Spider-Man** titles. Under **Tom's** editorship, **Spider-Man's** career underwent a renaissance which impressed fans and professionals alike. "I'm given a lot more credit than I actually deserve for that," **Tom** characteristically disclaims. "It was the first time one editor had all of **Spider-Man's** books."

Last year, **Tom** left editing **Spider-Man's** books to become Executive Editor of the Marvel Comics Group. One of his many projects as second-in-command to Editor in Chief **Jim Shooter** was overseeing the creation of the newest line of comics, **Star Comics**.

Why was the new line of Star Comics created?

We've been looking at today's comics market,. and we've seen that there really isn't much out there for younger readers. Children are really getting ripped off these days! When I was a kid, there was plenty of stuff out there for us to read and to see on TV. There really isn't much today. So Marvel created Star Comics out of a sense of obligation — because kids deserve to be entertained, too.

Also, Marvel Comics is in it for the long haul. We expect to be around twenty years from now..If we want to be around then, we've got to start grooming comic book readers now!

Are the new Star Comics strictly for kids, though — or can they appeal to both older and younger readers?

Oh, yeah. I'm sure the adults will look at them and find them appealing. Adults will easily recognize some of the titles, like **HEATHCLIFF**, who will appeal to everyone, regardless of age. Our new creations like **WALLY THE WIZARD** and **PLANET TERRY** should make good fun reading for anybody!

Give us a rundown on all the new titles.

Basically, we've got two groups of titles. One is the licensed properties, which star characters who already exist in other media. The other features Marvel-owned characters who we created especially for Star Comics. The licensed properties include those little furry creatures from *Star Wars* — **THE EWOKS!** They'll soon have their own TV series, too — the Star Wars tie-in has created a lot of excitement. Another one is **FRAGGLE ROCK**, featuring the cast of **Jim Henson's** new TV show on Home Box Office. We're working on a book starring the **GET ALONG GANG**. You may not have heard of **the Get Along Gang** yet, but I know that

you'll know them by the end of this summer. They were created by the people at American Greetings, the people who gave us **the Care Bears** and **Strawberry Shortcake**. **The Get-Along Gang** will have a network TV show next fall. You won't be able to walk into a greeting card store without seeing these great new characters — and now we've got them as well. Another Star title, as I mentioned, is **HEATHCLIFF**, whose strip is being syndicated in hundreds of newspapers. He's had his own network show, and he'll have a syndicated show next year that should be on every day of the week. You already know that we're putting **the Muppets** in comics, starting with our adaptation of *The Muppets Take Manhattan*. As if that weren't enough, we're working on plans for **Strawberry Shortcake** and **the Cabbage Patch** dolls!

These particular comics are titles that everybody — kid or adult — will recognize right away. People should know that their favorite characters will now have adventures published in Star Comics. And if any parents are reading this, they should know that we're out to appeal to them, too — Mom can now go to a newsstand and think, "My little boy or girl loves **Fraggle Rock** — and now there's a **FRAGGLE ROCK** comic book!"

We've also got a batch of original Star Comics creations. **PLANET TERRY**, Orphan of the Astros, will appear monthly. **Planet Terry** is a little kid who travels through space with a big monstrous creature named **Omnus** and a gorgeous female robot called **Robota**. When **Terry** was born out in space his parents accidentally ejected him from their spaceship — and they've been trying to find each other ever since. Just like a good old-fashioned Marvel comic, **PLANET TERRY** will have adventure, action, and suspense all the way to shocking cliff-hanger endings!

WALLY THE WIZARD, another monthly series, chronicles the adventures of an apprentice wizard growing up in the middle ages. Poor **Wally** has to deal with dragons, monsters, knights in shining armor, griffins, and who knows what! It's guaranteed to be a lot of fun.

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TOP DOG will start off as a bimonthly limited series. **Top Dog** is a genius dog who is a computer expert, a world-famous chef and a secret agent — and a number of other things — who decides that life at the top is too rough and that he should hide out. He meets a boy named **Joey Jordan** in the park one day, and they sort of adopt each other. So the boy's got this talking dog, but he can't let anybody know about it!

But isn't the dog already world famous?

Yes — but only to the world's leaders. For example, the president of the United States is aware of him. The king of a foreign country knows about him, because **Top Dog** used to be his chef. Because it's known by heads of state that this genius talking dog is walking around, the wildest adventures take place for **Top Dog** and his friend. Some-

times he has to drag the kid along kicking and screaming!

Another bimonthly series will be **ROYAL ROY**, the adventures of a young kid who's the prince of a fantastically wealthy country. He can buy whatever he wants and do whatever he wants — he lives every kid's fantasy!

Last, but hardly least, we have **PETER PORKER, THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-HAM**. Remember last year's **MARVEL TAILS**, with funny animal versions of our super heroes? It proved to be so popular that our distributor called us and demanded another issue! That's the first time that's ever happened to us! This is truly by popular demand. We had only planned on doing him as a one-shot!

Is that the entire line-up?

Hardly. We're constantly in the process of developing new and different kinds of books — for girls as well as boys. One such book is **MICKEY**, done by the incredible **Trina Robbins**. It's the exploits of a young high school girl who also works on a TV soap opera. She wants to be an actress and model — but she has problems with her father and family and all sorts of crazy things. It's really a nice, old-fashioned adventure-romance kind of book.

You know, girls are in worse shape than boys when it comes to entertainment they can enjoy these days. Star Comics is going to change all that!

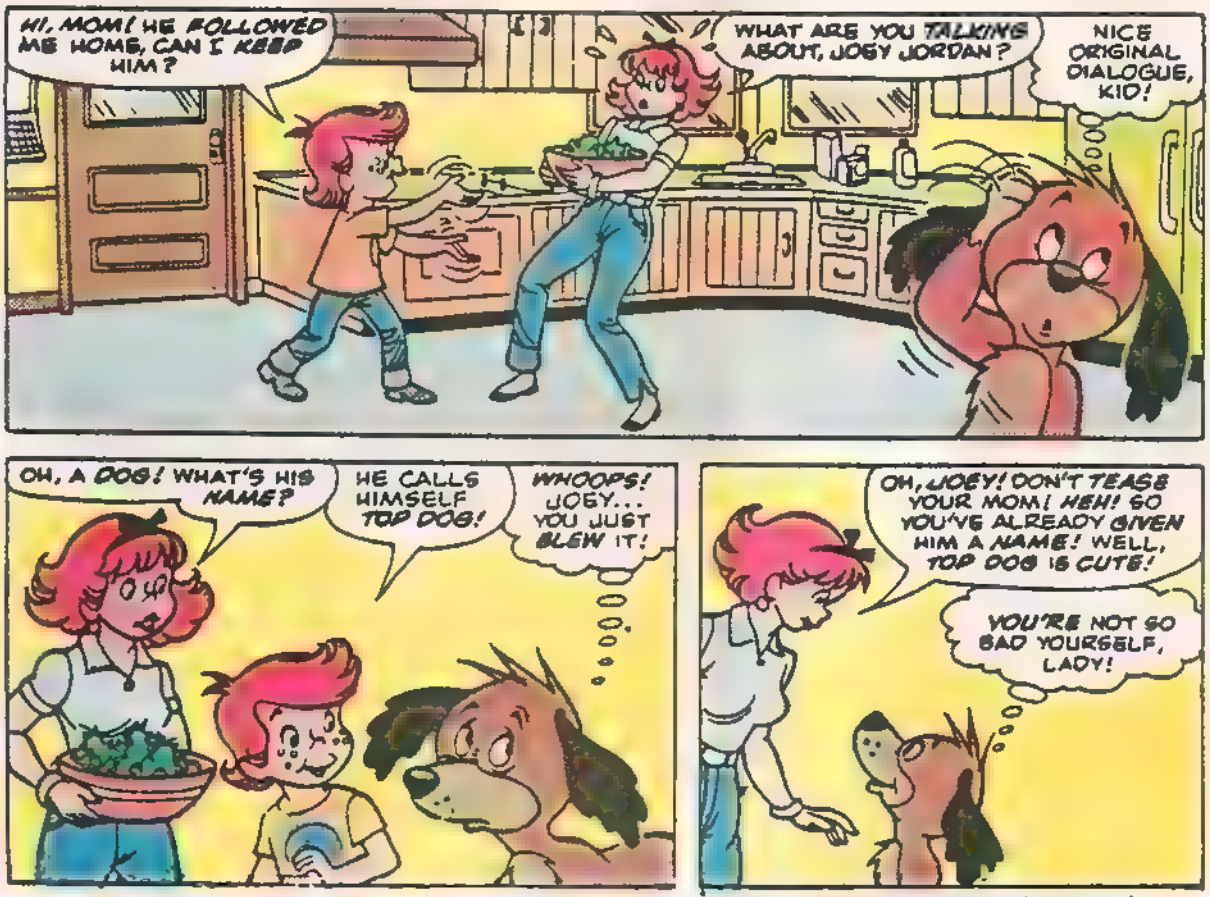
It sounds like you've essentially built a comics line from scratch. How did you do it?

Lots of phone calls. **Sid Jacobson**, who will be Star Comics's major editor, editing all the comics except **PETER PORKER**, is a veteran professional in the field of children's comics with over thirty years experience. He called many of his old co-workers with the news that Marvel was starting a new comics line. I had worked at Archie Comics for a number of years before I came to Marvel, and I called up a lot of my old colleagues. And that's how we built the line.

As it became known that Marvel was entering the area of children's books, we started hearing from a lot of other people in the comics field who wanted to try out new ideas. That's how **Trina Robbins** came in. I'm sure that once the Star Comics appear, we'll find even more creative people anxious to join. No one has launched a major line of children's titles since the 1950's. That's why it took us such a long time to get the right creative people, because what we're doing — children's comics with heavy emphasis on story and characterization — hasn't been done in years.

Who are the creative people?

Warren Kremer was a top artist at Harvey Comics for many, many years. He was the main artist for **RICHIE RICH** and **CASPER**, and his style will be quickly recognizable. He's a fabulous penciler. He designed **Royal Roy**, **Top Dog**, and **Planet Terry**. We've also got **Bob Bolling**, a fan-favorite, who used to do classic **Little Archie** stuff. He's going to be doing some


HI, MOM! HE FOLLOWED ME HOME, CAN I KEEP HIM?
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT, JOEY JORDAN?
NICE ORIGINAL DIALOGUE, KID!
OH, A DOG! WHAT'S HIS NAME?
HE CALLS HIMSELF TOP DOG!
WHOOPS! JOEY... YOU JUST BLEW IT!
OH, JOEY! DON'T TEASE YOUR MOM! HEH! SO YOU'VE ALREADY GIVEN HIM A NAME! WELL, TOP DOG IS CUTE!
YOU'RE NOT SO BAD YOURSELF, LADY!

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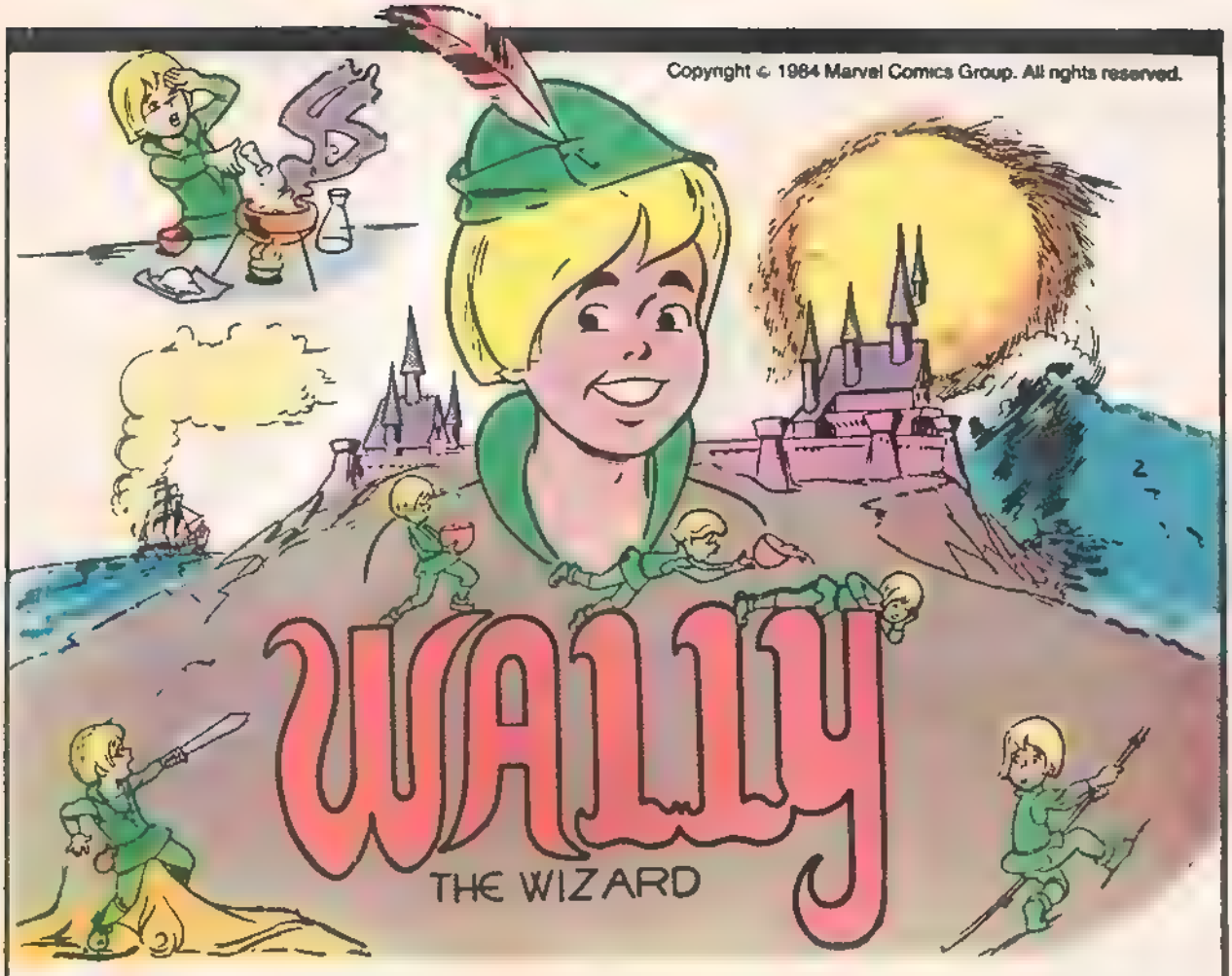

work on **WALLY THE WIZARD**. Then there's **Howie Post**, who did animation work for many years and ran the old Paramount cartoon studio for a term. **Don Christiansen** — who sometimes goes by the name "**Don Arr** —" is another well-known talent in the animation field who will be writing for Star Comics. **Stan Kaye**, a legend in the field, will be writing many of our projects. **Dave Manak** will be writing **HEATHCLIFF** and **THE EWOKS Harold Smith** will be writing for **HEATHCLIFF** as well, and **Mort Gerberg**, a well-known *New Yorker* cartoonist, is doing some work on **ROYAL ROY**!

For inkers, we have **Jon D'Agostino**, who inked for Archie Comics for a long time, but whom you best know from **G.I. JOE. Jacqueline Roettcher**, who inked many of the old Harvey books, is with us, and so is **Vince Colletta**, who's inked just about *everything* at one time or another!

One of the greatest talents we had, though, died recently, before Star Comics would ever become known **Lennie Herman** was instrumental in creating the Star Comics Line. He was just starting to produce the kind of great material we'd waited so long to publish when he died. We really had to start all over. He was a tremendous loss.

That brings up a point. Attention new talent — we desperately need writers. It's hard to get people who can do the kind of material that Star Comics is about. We want new writers who are as dedicated to stories for younger readers as they would be to doing an issue of the **X-Men**. It's hard to find people who have just the right attitude and who are completely dedicated to this line of work. If you're good enough — and willing to put sweat into it — we need you!

What are the greatest children's comics of the past?

The **Carl Barks Donald Duck** material is classic. **Barks** did a *lot* of great children's books. **Little Lulu** by **John Stanley** was great. And I think the early **Spider-Man** by **Stan Lee** and **Steve Ditko** was great! You might not think of **Spider-Man** in the same category as **Carl Barks** because the character has gotten so much more sophisticated in the last twenty years, but when it started it caught on immediately with younger readers. Now the character appeals to both older and younger readers, just on different levels.

This isn't the first time Marvel has published childrens' comics. But it is the first time we've put so much energy and talent into it. What's going to make Star Comics Special?

Most of the other children's books we've published in our history were licensed to us, but produced outside the company. We just printed them. This time Marvel is going to be actually producing original material. We know how to make comics better than anyone, and I know they'll come out just beautifully. I'm betting my job on the fact that we *know* what we're doing! ●

THE ORIGIN OF STAR COMICS

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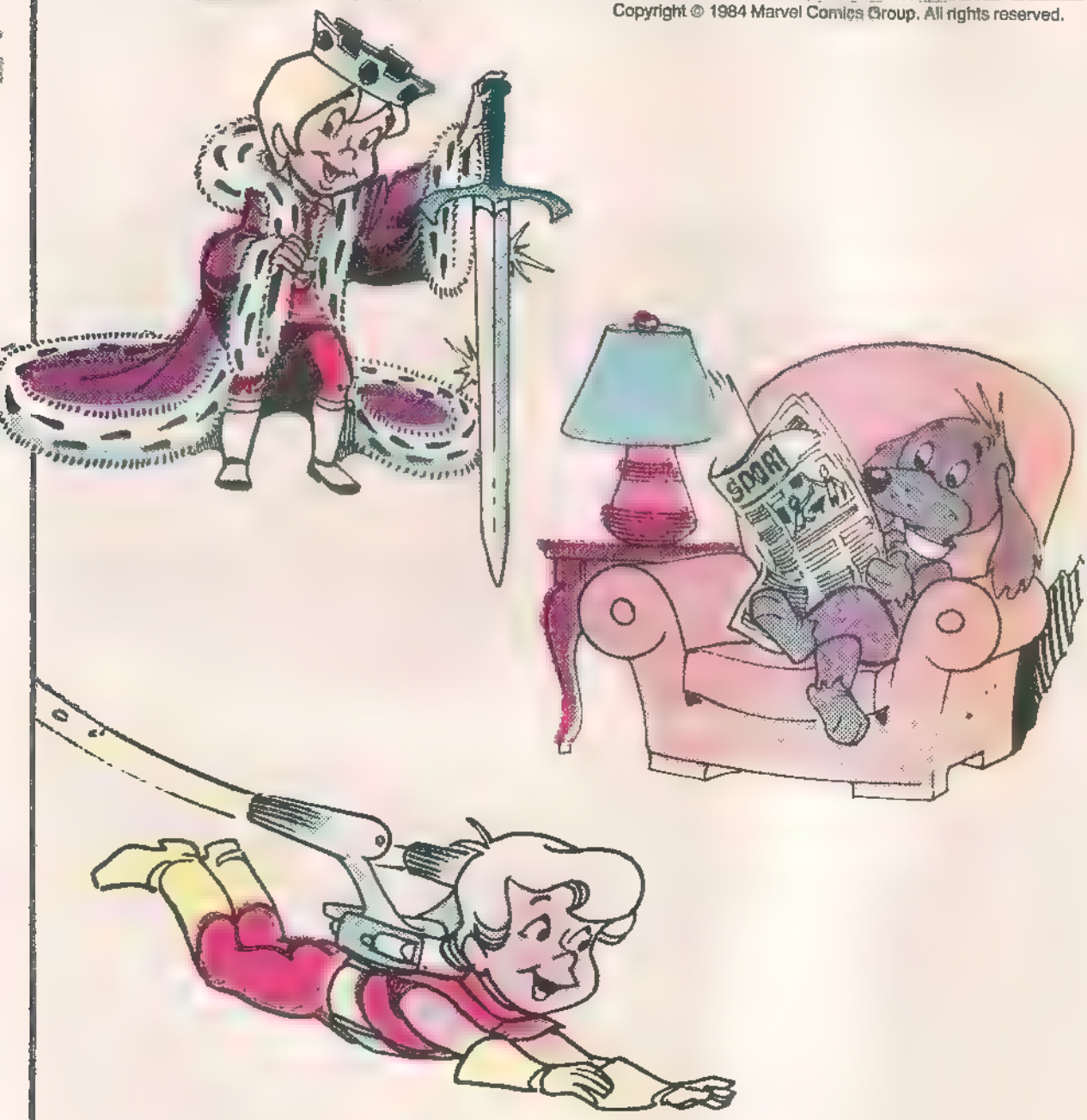

by **Jim Massara**

Building a line of comics from the ground up isn't easy. Just ask **Sid Jacobson.**

"It was step by step," says **Sid.** "It's hard. I mean I've . . ." He pauses, then lets go with a laugh. "I mean, I've never worked so hard in my life!"

There's a good reason of course. The new line of comics is Star Comics, Marvel's answer to the needs of the younger reader and the first launch of its kind in years. **Sid** is in the hot seat; the thirty-plus-year veteran editor from Harvey Comics not only created several of the new line's major characters, but will be editing them as well.

Sid's involvement with Marvel began early in 1983 when **Mike Hobson,** Vice President in charge of Publishing invited him to come up with some ideas for a new line of comics the company was developing. **Sid** brainstormed with writer **Lennie Herman** and **Warren Kremer,** both long-time associates at Harvey, to create the nucleus of the new line, **PLANET TERRY, ROYAL ROY,** and **TOP DOG.**

Which makes it all sound a lot easier than it really was. Along the way, the characters and ideas were constantly revised and re-

fined, with many creative suggestions from both Editor in Chief **Jim Shooter** and Executive Editor **Tom DeFalco**. For example, **Royal Roy** was originally conceived to be set in medieval times. Instead, it was decided that **ROYAL ROY** would take place in modern times, with **Tom DeFalco's** creation **WALLY THE WIZARD** taking place against the magic of the middle ages. **Omnus, Planet Terry's** monster sidekick, was redesigned to be less squat and more fierce-looking. **Jim** and **Tom** both contributed the emphasis on **Planet Terry's** search for his parents. **Top Dog's** ears were changed from brown to black for a crisper, more graphic look

These were minor trials compared to the unexpected death of **Lennie Herman**, who had been slated to write many of the books. "The loss of **Lennie** was enormous," says **Jacobson**. "**Lennie** was the best writer of humor comics I ever met, and I think he was doing his best work here. It's been a tremendous job replacing that talent." **Herman** had only written a few scripts for the characters before he passed away, leaving practically no precedents from which new writers could work. Fortunatly, several talented new writers have stepped in to fill the breach.

If a constant did remain after **Lennie Herman's** death, it was the approach to the characters. "We started with a background, a workable premise that's both fanciful and exciting," **Sid Jacobson** told **MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE**. "For example, science fiction forms the background for **PLANET TERRY**. We then thought of fantasy, a dream which every kid would like to come true. Who wouldn't want the kind of power **Royal Roy** has? This is the same sort of idea that inspires the creation of super heroes, except that this is for a slightly younger audience.

"It's important," **Sid** continued, "to develop positive characteristics in any character. Take **Heathcliff**, for instance. We're adapting him from a nationally syndicated newspaper gag panel, but we're going to focus on his personality. **Heathcliff** is mischievous, but he's really a positive force in the family. He does a lot of good things for his owner and for other characters in the strip. I mean, he does beat the stuffing out of bullies — but he also protects. He's a troublemaker, but he isn't **strictly** a troublemaker. He's a more sympathetic character than that. He has human qualities, if you will."

Artist **Warren Kremer** concurs. "There's an honesty to our characters — a charm, a niceness, never a nastiness."

But, says **Sid**, that does not mean that the Star Comics Line will be saccharin. "The books do not pander. They're written with a great amount of sophistication and humor, and they're *full* stories with beginnings, middles, and ends — not just a run of gags or a premise to run gags around. Star Comics will work for any age level, adults, children, and in-between."

We *know* all of you must be wondering, so we'll tell you right now — all the charcters in the Star Comics Line *will* exist in the Marvel Universe. Does that mean **Royal Roy** may one day meet **Spider-Man**, or that **Top Dog** could team up with **the X-Men**? "Oh, certainly," answers **Sid**. "There aren't any plans yet, but it is a strong probability." In fact, **Joey Jordan**, **Top Dog's** boy owner, will appear in the first issue of **TOP DOG** wearing a **Spider-Man** t-shirt!

"I hope the fan market gives these new books as much of a chance as the kids do," **Sid** concludes. "I think they'll be pleasantly surprised. It's *not* just kiddie stuff!" ●

STAR COMICS COMING ATTRACTIONS

Here's the latest information on the first issue of each new Star Comics title. The shipping date refers to the date the comics leave the printer; you can expect to find the books in your favorite comics specialty shop a week to two weeks later. Following each title is the creative team, if known. All these books will be edited by **Sid Jacobson**.

Titles shipping September 11:

PLANET TERRY #1 — Written by **Lennie Herman**, penciled by **Warren Kremer** and inked by **Vince Colletta**.
FRAGGLE ROCK #1 — Written by **Stan Kaye**, penciled by **Martin Taras** and inked by **Jacqueline Roettcher**.
HEATHCLIFF #1 — Written by **Joe Edwards**, penciled by **Warren Kremer** and inked by **Jacqueline Roettcher**.

Titles shipping September 25.

WALLY THE WIZARD #1 — Written, penciled and inked by **Bob Bolling**.
TOP DOG #1 — Written by **Lennie Herman**, penciled by **Warren Kremer** and inked by **Jacqueline Roettcher**.
STRAWBERRY SHORTCAKE #1.

Titles shipping October 9:

THE MUPPET BABIES #1.
THE EWOKS #1.

Titles shipping October 23:

ROYAL ROY #1 — Written by **Lennie Herman**, penciled by **Warren Kremer** and inked by **Jon D'Agostino**.
GET ALONG GANG #1. ●

The Marvel Age — 1966 (Part II)

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by **Warren Reece**

Last issue, we visited the Marvel Bullpen of 1966, examined **THE SPIDER-MAN** Master Planner Trilogy, and we briefly touched on some of the other outstanding and innovative events of the period.

Now, the continued story wasn't *exactly* brand-new in comic books. **Carl Burgos**, **Bill Everett**, **Bob Byrd** and **Ben Thompson**, among others, made the 1939-1941 **MARVEL MYSTERY COMICS** great with *their* continued stories. Certainly, **Stan Lee** *innovated* the continued story format. **MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE** asked **Stan** why he chose the continued story format. "The reason for the multi-chapter epics was to give us room for more complex, sophisticated stories; also, for better dramatic build-up, richer characterization, more in-depth story development and more interesting sub-plots," he explained. **Stan's** use of the multi-chapter epic format not only did all that, but it also blew the fans away!

The unmasking sequence between the original **Green Goblin** and **Spidey** was a major event, and a long time in coming! It was just about the only way **Stan** could follow up the drama and power of issues #31-33, which we discussed last issue.

Prior to this climax, we witnessed the rift developing between **Peter Parker** and **Betty Brant**, helped by the growing presence of *Bugle* reporter **Ned Leeds**. We also met **Gwen Stacy in AMAZING SPIDER-MAN** #31, who was taking her first angry steps towards an eventual romance with **Peter**. Finally, fans saw more of the misunderstandings and conflicts between **Peter** and his college crowd.

Amid the human interest, **Spider-Man** was attacked by **Kraven the Hunter** in #34, and a mob of petty crooks near the end of #38 It was later learned that these people were hired by **the Goblin**. In fact, **Kraven** had been in **the Goblin's** employ as far back as #15. Furthermore, **Professor Stromm**, whose rampaging robots battled **Spidey** in #37, was revealed to have been the cheated and framed ex-business partner of **Norman Osborn**, who was soon to loom large in **the Goblin** legend.

In #39, **Peter Parker** turned college acquaintance **Harry Osborn** from an enemy into a friend during an impromptu conversation about the rift between **Harry** and his hard-driving, irritable, industrialist father. That same day, **Pete** learned that his **Aunt May's** condition was critically fragile. On a final personal note, **Pete** de-

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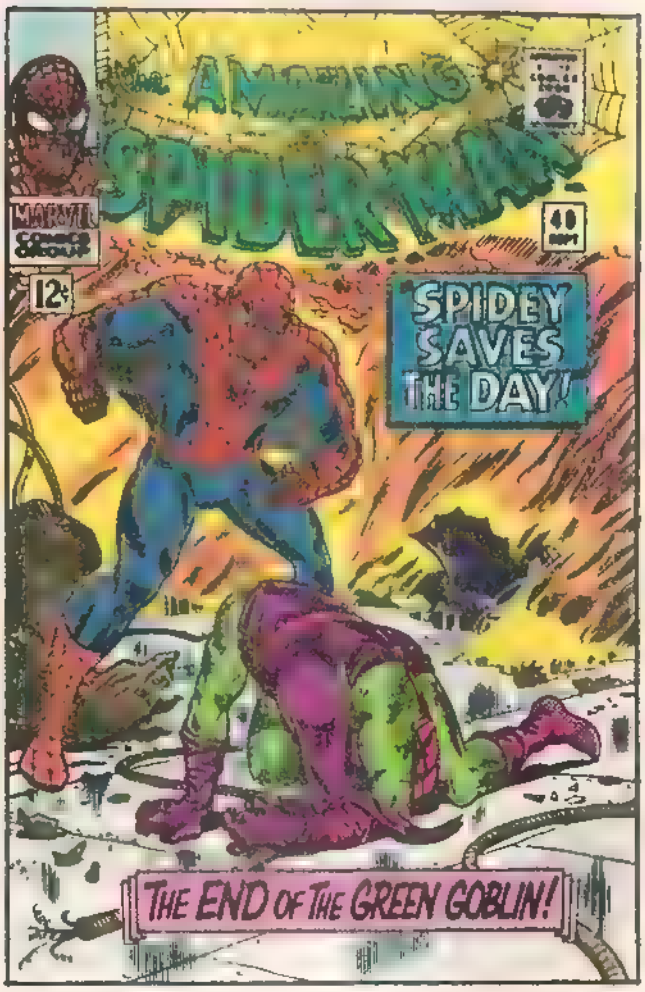
cided to give reporter **Ned Leeds** a clear street with the temporarily absent **Betty Brant**. All of this served as contrast for the impending climactic confrontation.

Having secretly arranged a fight between some hoods and **Spidey** atop the Empire State Building, the crafty **Goblin** used a special gas to nullify **Spidey's** spider sense, and followed his enemy undetected until he observed **Spidey** change back to his **Peter Parker** "civvies." After recovering from the initial shock that his powerful and resourceful longtime foe was a kid who couldn't have been more than nineteen or twenty, **the Goblin** ambushed him right near the **Parker** house! Desperate to keep **the Goblin** from scaring the shock prone **Aunt May** to death, **Peter** fought a gallant but losing battle. He was rendered unconscious quickly, bound with steel cable, flown to **the Goblin's** hideout, and locked in a special restraining chair. Then, in the last panel of this cliffhanger, **Peter** witnessed the unmasking of his deadliest foe; a foe who was as shocked with **Spider-Man's** true identity as **Spider-Man** was with his! For the sake of those of you who don't know already, I'll let you find out **the Goblin's** true identity in **MARVEL TALES**! How could this identity crisis be solved without murdering someone? That was the question that must've crossed many minds in '66.

AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #'s 39 and 40 not only resolved a long and mysterious campaign of menace, but the two-part climax began a new artistic period! **John Romita, Senior** premiered as **Spider-Man's** penciler with issue #39, replacing **Steve Ditko** who left Marvel in 1966 to seek his fortunes elsewhere. **Steve**, of course, eventually returned to Marvel, but many fans considered his departure a great loss. Fortunately, **John Romita** brought a new, exciting magic to **Spidey's** adventures! **John** had already warmed up on **DAREDEVIL**. Issues 16 and 17 of that mag had guest-starred **Spider-Man**, as **Daredevil** had continued in his own multi-chapter, epic struggle with **the Masked Marauder**. **John** brought that fresh experience, plus his years of work drawing romance mags, to his work on **SPIDER-MAN**. Artistically, **the Spider-Man** mag took on a new, sophisticated look. **John Romita** gave a new maturity to **Peter Parker**, and considerable romantic beauty to the girls and women he drew. In fact, just about everyone looked a little more healthy than he or she had ever looked before! Yes, **John Romita** brought the look of the romance book up from the beach



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blankets and into the pages of one of history's greatest super hero adventures and series, and made it work!

The year closed without excessive strain on **Peter** as his relationships with **Gwen Stacy**, **Harry Osborn**, and even **Flash Thompson**, improved! **Peter** got a motorcycle, which helped change his image. The long-awaited meeting with **Mary Jane Watson** took place, which didn't hurt his image either, especially when she rode around with him; and **Peter's Aunt May** moved in with **Mary Jane's Aunt Anna**, giving her a constant companion with whom she could feel secure and rested.

In September 1965, **Spider-Man** and **the Hulk** had been mentioned in *Esquire* magazine as being two of "The 28 People Who Count Most On Campus." Well, the feeling wasn't lost by 1966! The September '66 *Esquire* carried a big, illustrated feature on the young-adult Marvel explosion, including this quote by a certain **Richard Weingroff**, of the University of Maryland: "**Spidey** is comicdom's Hamlet, comicdom's Raskonikov. The uninitiated have disagreed about this, of course — but we don't feel we should hastily appraise *Hamlet* and *Raskolnikov* just because they are from literature."

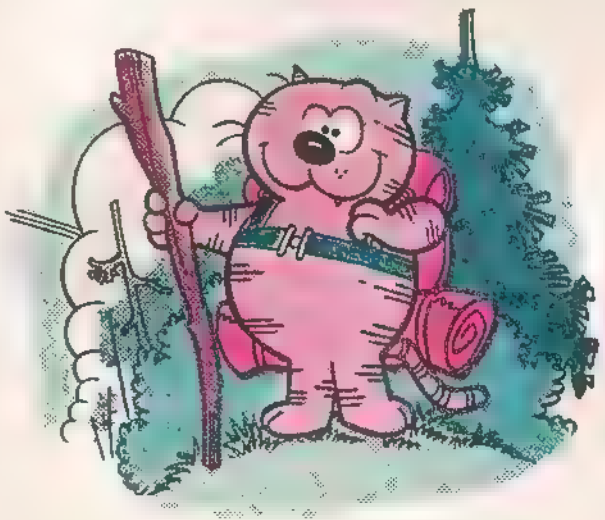
Marvel accomodated the interest of older fans with a Lancer Paperback of **Spider-Man** reprints, in April 1966. Further fan appetites were filled with **SPIDER-MAN** reprints in the brand new **MARVEL COLLECTOR'S ITEM CLASSICS**, and soon after, in **MARVEL TALES**, which took over the job of reprinting some of the earliest stories, beginning with the third issue of that giant, 25¢ treat! That brings us to something that directly concerns *you*, the Marvel-ous fans of today, for the very **SPIDER-MAN** mags we've been discussing in these first two chapters of "1966" will be coming your way via the **MARVEL TALES** reprints of the next year or so! It's our sincere wish that you'll get of the same sense of excitement and wonder that these amazing tales inspired in yesteryear's Marvelites. Those issues were, and are, just plain *good*. See for yourselves.

Anyway, the adventure is far from over. The events of 1966, with all their mind-expanding concepts and developments, will open up to Marveldom again, as we explore them together in soon-to-come chapters of "The Marvel Age"! Hope you'll be there with us.

THE MARVEL BOOKS CHECKLIST

compiled by **Dwight Jon Zimmerman**

Many of you may not be aware of Marvel Books. Marvel Books is a separate division of the vast Marvel publishing empire, devoted to publishing children's books, coloring books, special album editions of comics, and many other types of products sold nationally in bookstores, novelty stores, and department stores. Here is a checklist of Marvel Books publications, listed by ISBN Numbers where they apply.



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ISBN #0-9604146 series
0-6 **STAR WARS: THE EMPIRE STRIKES BACK** (color paperback reprint)
4 **THE INCREDIBLE HULK** (pop-up book)
8-1 **STAR WARS** (color paperback, featuring reprints from British **STAR WARS** comic.)
9-X **THE INCREDIBLE HULK** (color paperback reprint)

ISBN #0-939766 series
00-0 **STAR TREK** (color paperback reprint)
01-9 **THE X-MEN** (paperback reprint; new full-color cover by **Dave Cockrum**.)
02-7 **THE FANTASTIC FOUR** (paperback reprint)
03-5 **THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN** "The Schemer Strikes!" (pop-up book, **Herb Trimpe, Mike Esposito, David Anthony Kraft, John Romita, Marie Severin, Ken Feduniewicz, Guillermo Rozo**)
05-1 **THE INCREDIBLE HULK** "Circus of Crime" (pop-up book, **Herb Trimpe, Mike Esposito, Frank Giacoia, John Romita, Marie Severin, Ken Feduniewicz, Guillermo Rozo**)
06-X **THE INCREDIBLE HULK** "TRAPPED!" (pop-up book, **David Anthony Kraft, John Romita, Marie Severin, Winslow Mortimer, Ken Feduniewicz, Frank Giacoia, Gary Brodsky, Stan Goldberg, Guillermo Rozo**)
07-8 **CONAN THE BARBARIAN** (paperback reprint)
08-6 **CAPTAIN AMERICA** (paperback reprint)
09-4 **THE AVENGERS** (paperback reprint)
10-8 **BLADE RUNNER** (paperback reprint, cover by **Steranko**.)
11-6 **THE DEATH OF CAPTAIN MARVEL (Marvel Graphic Novel #1, Jim Starlin)**
12-4 **ELRIC: THE DREAMING CITY (MGN #2, Roy Thomas, Craig Russell)**
13-2 **SPIDER-MAN** 2 (paperback reprint)
14-0 **STAR WARS** 2 (paperback reprint)
15-9 **DREADSTAR (MGN #3, Jim Starlin)**
16-7 **ANNIE Treasury Edition**
17-5 **SMURFS Treasury Edition**
18-3 **DAREDEVIL** (paperback reprint)
20-5 **THE NEW MUTANTS (MGN #4, Claremont** and **McLeod)**
21-3 **STAR SLAMMERS (MGN #6, Walt Simonson)**
22-1 **X-MEN (MGN #7, Claremont** and **Anderson)**
23-X **DARK CRYSTAL** (Super Special reprint, **Kraft** and **Blevins**)
25-6 **KRULL:** "To Stop the Slayers" (coloring book, **David Anthony Kraft, Alan Kupperberg, Mike Esposito, Marie Severin**)
24-8 **STAR WARS: THE RETURN OF THE JEDI** (Super Special Reprint, **Archie Goodwin, Al Williamson**)
26-4 **KRULL:** "A Puppy for Titch" (coloring book, **David Anthony Kraft, Alan Kupperberg, Jim Mooney, Marie Severin**)
27-2 **KRULL:** "The Challenges of Krull", (coloring and activity book, **Jim Salicrup, Alan Kupperberg, Brian Moore, Alex Soma, John Tartaglione**)
28-0 **KRULL:** "The Puzzles of Krull", (coloring and activity book, **Jim Salicrup, Alan Kupperberg, Brian Moore, Alex Soma**)
29-9 **HEATHCLIFF:** "At The Circus" (coloring book, **David Anthony Kraft, Stan Goldberg, Gary Brodsky**)
30-2 **HEATHCLIFF:** "The Pirate" (coloring book, **David Anthony Kraft, Stan Goldberg, Gary Brodsky**)
31-0 **HEATHCLIFF:** "#1 Cat in the Show" (coloring and activity book, **David Anthony Kraft, Joe Edwards, Stan Goldberg, Gary Brodsky**)
32-9 **HEATHCLIFF:** "Our Hero" (coloring and activity book, **David Anthony Kraft, Joe Edwards, Stan Goldberg, Gary Brodsky**)
33-7 **CRYSTAR:** "The Saga of Crystar" (coloring book, **David Anthony Kraft, Alan Kupperberg, Charles Nichols**)
34-5 **CRYSTAR:** "The Tournament" (coloring book, **David Anthony Kraft, Jim Mooney, Joe Giella**)
35-3 **CRYSTAR:** "Menace of the Magma Men" (activity book, **Jim Salicrup, Alex Soma**)
36-1 **CRYSTAR:** "Chaos in Crystallium" (activity book, **Joe Edwards, Paty, Alex Soma**)
37-X **THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN:** "Unmasked!" (coloring book, **David Anthony Kraft, Winslow**

Mortimer, Mike Esposito)
38-8 **THE FANTASTIC FOUR:** "FF vs. the Frightful Four" (coloring book, **David Anthony Kraft, Ed Hannigan, Chic Stone, Joe Sinnott)**
39-6 **THE UNCANNY X-MEN:** Super Activity Book (activity book, **Owen McCarron)**
40-X **MARVEL SUPER HEROES:** "Super Activity Book" (activity book, **Owen McCannon)**
41-8 **THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN:** "The Arms of Dr. Octopus" (Super size coloring book, **David Anthony Kraft, Alan Kupperberg, Brian Moore)**
43-4 **BUGS:** "The Big Bugs Mystery Surprise" (super size coloring book, **Stan Lee, Bob Miller)**
44-2 **SUGAR AND SPICE:** "In Niceland" (super size coloring book, **Jim Salicrup, Stan Goldberg, Gary Brodsky)**
45-0 **HEATHCLIFF:** "A Day With Heathcliff" (super size coloring book, **Jim Salicrup, Stan Goldberg, Gary Brodsky)**
46-9 **G.I. JOE:** "Operation Decoy" (super size coloring book, **David Anthony Kraft, Gary Brodsky, Brian Moore)**
47-7 **THE FAMILY CIRCUS:** "At The Zoo" (super size coloring book, **Bil Keane)**
48-5 **G.I. JOE:** "The Trojan Gambit" (reprint of the first three issues of **G.I. JOE)**
49-3 **KRULL** (storybook adaptation of movie, **David Anthony Kraft)**

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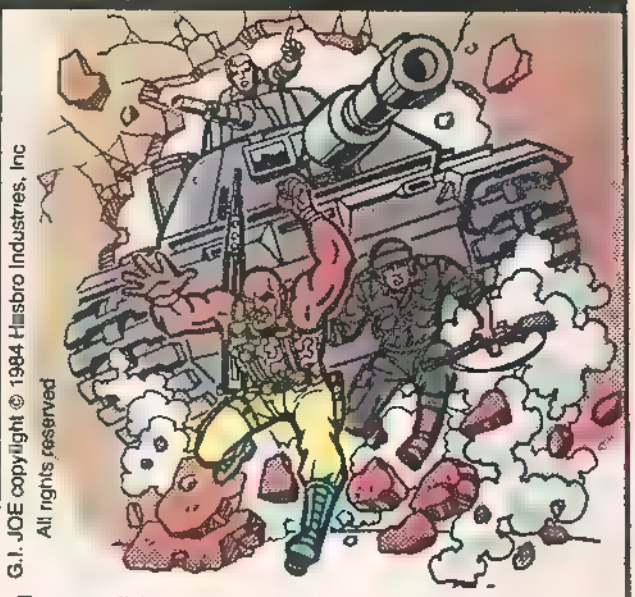
50-7 **G.I. JOE:** "Operation Disappearance" (Mighty Marvel Storybook)
51-5 **G.I. JOE:** "The Spy Eye" (Mighty Marvel Storybook)
52-3 **HEATHCLIFF:** "The Fish Bandit" (storybook, **Shirley Jay, John Costanza)**
53-1 **HEATHCLIFF:** "The Trickiest Cat in Town" (Big Looker Storybook, **Shirley Jay, John Costanza)**
54-X **THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN:** "The Big-Top Mystery" (storybook, **David Anthony Kraft, Marie Severin, Earl Norem)**
55-8 **THE FANTASTIC FOUR:** "The Island of Danger" (storybook, **David Anthony Kraft, Marie Severin,** Earl Norem)
56-6 **CRYSTAR:** "The Origin of Crystar" (storybook, **David Anthony Kraft, Alan Kupperberg, Marie Severin)**
57-4 **CRYSTAR:** "To Capture the Magic Crystal" (storybook, **Laura Lynn, Alan Kupperberg, Marie Severin)**
58-2 **STAR WARS:** "Return of the Jedi" (color paperback reprint)
59-0 **KILLRAVEN, WARRIOR OF THE WORLDS (MGN #7, Don McGregor, Craig Russell)**
60-4 **MIGHTY MARVEL TEAM-UP THRILLERS** (trade paperback, reprints)
61-2 **BUGS:** "The Bad Little Bugs" (latchbook, **Stan Lee, Bob Miller)**
62-0 **HEATHCLIFF:** "The Health Cat Craze" (storybook, **John Costanza)**
63-9 **SUGAR & SPICE:** "Visit Candy Island" (latchbook, **Fred Ottenheimer)**
65-5 **ADVANCED DUNGEONS & DRAGONS:** "The Lost Wand" (coloring book, **David Anthony Kraft, Suzanne Weyn, Alan Kupperberg, Brian Moore, Marie Severin)**
66-3 **ADVANCED DUNGEONS & DRAGONS:** "The Crown of Rulership" (coloring book, **David Anthony Kraft, Pablo Marcos, Earl Norem)**
67-1 **ADVANCED DUNGEONS & DRAGONS:** "Characters Coloring Book" (coloring book, **Jane Stine, John Tartaglione, Jim Mooney, Earl Norem)**
68-X **ADVANCED DUNGEONS & DRAGONS:** "The Rescue of Ringelrun" (coloring and activity book, **David Anthony Kraft, Pablo Marcos, Frank Giacoia, Pablo Marcos)**
69-8 **ADVANCED DUNGEONS & DRAGONS:** "The Forest of Enchantment" (storybook, **Bob Stine, Marie Severin, Earl Norem)**
70-1 **ADVANCED DUNGEONS & DRAGONS:** "The Treasure of Time" (storybook, **David Anthony Kraft, Jane Stine, Marie Severin)**
71-X **HEATHCLIFF:** "Stamp Fun with Heathcliff" (stamp activity book)
72-8 **SUGAR & SPICE:** "Stamp Fun with Sugar & Spice" (stamp activity book)
73-6 **HEATHCLIFF:** "The Haunted House" (coloring book, **Suzanne Weyn, Stan Goldberg, Gary Brodsky)**
74-4 **SUGAR & SPICE:** "At the Candy Island Zoo" (coloring book, **Suzanne Weyn, Fred Ottenheimer)**

75-2 **FRANKENSTEIN** (trade paperback, illustrated novel, **Berni Wrightson**)
76-0 **THE MARVEL COMICS TRY-OUT BOOK** (tabloid)
77-9 **SUPER BOXERS (MGN #8, Ron Wilson, John Byrne, Armando Gil)**
79-5 **MR. T:** "Stamp Fun with Mr. T" (stamp activity book, **Denise Yuspeh, Jim Mooney, Mike Esposito**)
80-9 **MR. T:** "Meet Mr. T" (stamp activity book, **Denise Yuspeh, Chic Stone, John Tartaglione**)
81-7 **THE FUTURIANS (MGN #9, Dave Cockrum)**
86-8 **HEATHCLIFF:** "Christmas Stamp Fun with Heathcliff" (stamp activity book, **Suzanne Weyn, Stan Goldberg**)
90-6 **MARVEL SUPER HEROES SECRET WARS:** "The Crime of the Centuries" (coloring and activity book, **David Anthony Kraft, Carlos Garzon, John Tartaglione**)
92-2 **MARVEL SUPER HEROES SECRET WARS:** "Stamp Fun" (stamp activity book, **Jim Salicrup**)
93-0 **MARVEL SUPER HEROES SECRET WARS:** "Spider-Man's Stamp Fun" (stamp activity book, **Jim Salicrup**)
94-3 **MARVEL SUPER HEROES SECRET WARS:** "Escape from Doom" (coloring and activity book, **David Anthony Kraft, Carlos Garzon, Jim Mooney**)

ISBN #0-87135 series
(not yet released)

005-X **ELECTRIC CO. ACTIVITY BOOK**
006-8 **ELECTRIC CO. ACTIVITY BOOK**
007-6 **ELECTRIC CO. ACTIVITY BOOK**
008-4 **ELECTRIC CO. ACTIVITY BOOK**
009-2 **TRANSFORMERS:** "Search For Treasure Under the Sea" (coloring and activity book, **Dwight Jon Zimmerman, Carlos Garzon, Joe Giella, Marie Severin**)
010-6 **TRANSFORMERS:** "Bumblebee to the Rescue" (coloring and activity book, **Dwight Jon Zimmerman, Steve Ditko, John Tartaglione, Carlos Garzon, Marie Severin**)
011-4 **TRANSFORMERS:** "Decepticon Patrol" (coloring and activity book, **Dwight Jon Zimmerman, Carlos Garzon, Marie Severin**)
012-2 **TRANSFORMERS:** "The Deadly Fuel Shortage (coloring and activity book)
023-8 **G.I. JOE:** "Stamp Fun featuring G.I. Joe" (stamp activity book)

Publication without ISBN numbers
THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN: "Attack of the Tarantula!" (pop-up book, **David Anthony Kraft, Marie Severin, John Tartaglione, John Romita, Ken Feduniewicz, Guillermo Rozo**)
THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN: "Spider-Man's Christmas" (super size coloring book, **Suzanne Weyn, Jim Mooney, John Tartaglione**)
ADVANCED DUNGEONS & DRAGONS: "Magical Coloring Book" (super size coloring book, **Jane Stine, Alan Kupperberg, Mike Esposito, Pablo Marcos**)
***DRAGON'S LAIR:** "The Quest for the Stolen Treasure" (storybook)



***DRAGON'S LAIR:** "The Rescue of Princess Daphne" (storybook)
***DRAGON'S LAIR:** "The Magic Sword" (coloring book)
***DRAGON'S LAIR:** "Dirk the Daring Battles the Black Knight" (coloring book)
***DRAGON'S LAIR:** "Dirk the Daring Battles the Giddy Goons" (coloring book)
***DRAGON'S LAIR:** "Dirk the Daring vs. the Crypt Creeps" (coloring book)
***G.I. JOE:** "The Capture of Cobra Commander" (coloring book)
***G.I. JOE:** "Into Zartan's Lair" (coloring book)
***G.I. JOE:** "Mountain Attack" (coloring book)
***G.I. JOE:** "The New G.I. Joes" (coloring book)
HEATHCLIFF: "Heathcliff Goes Camping" (super size coloring book, **Denise Yuspeh, Stan Goldberg, John Costanza**)
MR. T: "Fight Fair" (super size coloring book, **Denise Yuspeh, Stan Goldberg, Jim Mooney**)
SANTA AND THE LAZY ELF (super size coloring book, **Suzanne Weyn, Chic Stone**)
SUGAR & SPICE: "Happy Birthday" (super size coloring book, **Fred Ottenheimer, Denise Yuspeh**)
SUGAR & SPICE: "The Treasure Hunt" (latchbook, **Fred Ottenheimer**)
***TRANSFORMERS** (super size coloring book)
***TRANSFORMERS:** "The Great Car Rally" (storybook, **Dwight Jon Zimmerman**)
***TRANSFORMERS:** "Stamp Fun with the Brave Autobots" (stamp activity book)
***TRANSFORMERS:** "Stamp Fun with the Evil Decepticons" (stamp activity book)
WOODY WOODPECKER (super size coloring book, **Jim Salicrup, Walter Lantz** studios)

*not yet published

Special thanks to National Sales Manager **Lindsay Talley**, Marvel Books editors **Jane Stine** and **Joan Waricha**, and Production Supervisor **Ron Fontes** for their help in compiling this list. ●

Bullpen Bulletins

JIM STARLIN TRIED TO KILL ME!

In the very first issue of *Dreadstar*, a column I wrote was published, telling of a perilous trip by innertube down the rapids of the mighty Esopus river, conducted by Mr. James Starlin, during which I nearly lost my tube and might have drowned. Jim, I thought, kicked my tube back toward me at that critical moment, thereby saving me from a watery death, or at least embarassment.

I was wrong.

The tube kicking, it seems clear now, was an accident. Or perhaps he meant to kick it away from me and simply through egregious, blundering incompetence mistakenly kicked it the wrong direction.

No matter. His true colors have, at last, been shown — and they bear, my friends, the well-known symbolic image of death. *Mr. Yuck!* Or something like that.

A month or so ago, Jim again lured me to his palatial country estate, this time for "a relaxing weekend of winter sport."

He took me snowmobiling. My first time.

Rocketing along mountain goat-trails completely out of control at sixty miles an hour — that, I didn't mind.

It was a little worrisome when Jim's co-conspirator, one Berni Wrightson, a highly skilled and experienced snowmobiler, hurtled headlong off the trail and slaughtered a thicket of what one day would have been mighty oaks with his machine and his body.

What a mess.

Undaunted, trusting my "friend" Jim Starlin, I followed him onward, leaving Berni's corpse in the copse (or so we thought — later, it turned out, *he* survived. The copse was the only corpse).

Starlin led me at high speed to the very peak of Mt. Macho.

For a moment, we stopped, poised on the brink of a sheer cliff. Then, seeing a certain weird, evil gleam in his eyes, I said those three fatal, famous last words . .

"You're not serious."

Next thing I knew, I was plunging down a vertical cliff face, five hundred yards straight down, clinging to what might as well have been a large, hi-tech metal sculpture by Skidoo. I'm not going to say he *pushed* my machine over the precipice, because it all happened so fast — who can really be sure? But, I submit to you, that no sane individual would take that plunge un-pushed, or of his own free will.

Which is why Starlin *followed* me over of his own free will, shrieking his "death laugh" (patent pending) like the hysterical crazed maniac he is.

Of course, he merely to towed to cover up his deed — to make it look as though we'd both just gotten foolishly, suicidally careless. He, no doubt, was counting on that uncanny invulnerability which protects raving lunatics to save *his* life!

Ah, but fate cheated him. He survived all right, but somehow, as I plummeted, feeling all the while like Wile E. Coyote, I maintained control — and, as the cliff curved out into rocky meadow, I was still in the saddle, facing (as Stan Lee often commanded) front. I rode it out, and made it down the mountain.

The whole experience was worth it — because now I know. I *know!*

Jim Starlin is a killer.

Now, at last, I understand *Dreadstar*.

Vanth Dreadstar vs. the Lord High Papal — to the death, of course! But you'll *never* guess the ultimate outcome! Nothing will ever be the same again after "Resolution" in issue #14 of *Dreadstar*, on sale in early July at your local comics specialty store. Just $1.50.

By the way, watch for our full-color *video presentation!* It brings you up to date on all that has gone before in the entire Metamorphosis Odyssey-Dreadstar series! And it includes a *shocking* interview with Berni Wrightson in regards to his absolutely magnificent *Frankenstein* illustrated novel! It's probably being shown at your local comics shop now! If it's not, *demand* it!

HYPE-BOX

MACHINE MAN (Limited Series) #1 — You think *you're* grouchy after oversleeping? Then check out Machine Man — he's been asleep for nearly *40 years*, and is he fit to be tied! It's now the year 2020, but some things never change. Finstance Gears Garvin is still alive and kicking, and there's this second-generation super hero running around who looks *awfully* familiar! Who is he? Why did Machine Man sleep so long? And will he remember to set his alarm clock properly next time? For the answers to these and other vital questions of our day, be sure to read "He Lives Again," written by TOM DeFALCO, with lay-outs by HERB TRIMPE and finishes by BARRY WINDSOR-SMITH!

MICRONAUTS: THE NEW VOYAGES #1 — Who *are* the Makers, anyway? That's what the Micronauts want to know. Suffice it to say, though, that when the Makers finally *do* reveal themselves . . . the Microverse will never be the same again! This is the book that was so popular in comics shops that we couldn't keep it a secret from the newsstands — so it's available there now, too! "Shadow of the Makers" is written by PETER B. GILLIS, penciled by KELLEY JONES, inked by BRUCE PATTERSON . . . and it's got a special, painted cover by original Micronauts artist MICHAEL GOLDEN!

DOCTOR WHO #1 — He's a slightly eccentric, jelly-bean eating time traveler — and now he's got his own monthly Marvel comic! He's Doctor Who, of course, and if you want to find out why his British TV show is the longest running in BBC history . . . read this comic! This issue features the beginning of the *Star beast* story, written by MILLS & WAGNER and illustrated by DAVE GIBBONS, plus "Return of the Daleks," written by STEVE MOORE and illustrated by PAUL NEARY and DAVID LLOYD — *plus* an article on the history of Doctor Who illustrated by Thor artist WALT SIMONSON! And it's printed on Baxter paper, to boot!

CHECK LIST

- ☐ **THE THING #16**
- ☐ **DAREDEVIL #211**
- ☐ **NEW MUTANTS #20**
- ☐ **DAZZLER #34**
- ☐ **KA-ZAR #34** — What happens to a comic book character when his book is cancelled? Well, you can find out here . . . cause this is the last issue of **Ka-Zar**.
- ☐ **MARVEL SUPER HEROES SECRET WARS (Limited Series) #6**
- ☐ **WEST COAST AVENGERS (Limited Series) #2**
- ☐ **MACHINE MAN (Limited Series) #1** — **Machine Man** in the year 2020! See Hype Box.
- ☐ **THE MUPPETS #1, 2 & 3** — Featuring the Marvel adaptation of the new movie "The Muppets Take Manhattan," three-pack.
- ☐ **MARVEL TEAM-UP ANNUAL #7**
- ☐ **AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #257** — The secret of **Spidey's** new costume revealed!
- ☐ **CAPTAIN AMERICA #298**
- ☐ **THOR #348**
- ☐ **INDIANA JONES #22**
- ☐ **POWER PACK #3**
- ☐ **MICRONAUTS: THE NEW VOYAGES #1** — Now available on newsstands! See Hype Box.
- ☐ **DOCTOR STRANGE #67**
- ☐ **U.S. 1 (Limited Series) #12**
- ☐ **THE LAST STAR FIGHTER (Limited Series) #1, 2 & 3** — The world's greatest video game player is appointed savior of the universe! Really! Adapted from the new movie.
- ☐ **SUB-MARINER (Limited Series) #2**
- ☐ **IRON MAN ANNUAL #7**
- ☐ **AVENGERS #248**
- ☐ **CONAN THE BARBARIAN #163**
- ☐ **MARVEL TALES #168** — Never before reprinted . . . until now! "Never Step on A Scorpion," by **Stan Lee** and **Steve Ditko**, first presented in **Amazing Spider-Man #29!**
- ☐ **ROM #59**
- ☐ **POWER MAN/IRON FIST #110**
- ☐ **G.I. JOE #28**
- ☐ **KULL THE CONQUEROR #6** — Now bi-monthly!
- ☐ **TEMPLE OF DOOM (Limited Series) #2** — Marvel's official adaptation of the new **Indiana Jones** movie.
- **INCREDIBLE HULK #300** — Double-size spectacular!
- **X-MEN #186** — Illustrated by guest-artists **Barry Windsor-Smith** and **Terry Austin!**
- ☐ **FANTASTIC FOUR #271**
- ☐ **MARVEL TEAM-UP #146** — Featuring **Spider-Man** and **Nomad.**
- **IRON MAN #167**
- **PETER PARKER, THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #95**
- **DEFENDERS #136**
- **STAR WARS #88**
- **ALPHA FLIGHT #15**
- **WHAT IF #47** — "What if **Loki** Had Found **Thor's** Hammer?
- ☐ **DOCTOR WHO #1** — The star of the most popular TV show in Britain gets his own Marvel comic! See Hype Box.

MARVEL MAGAZINES

- ☐ **SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN #104**
- ☐ **MARVEL AGE #19**

EPIC COMICS

- ☐ **ALIEN LEGION #3**
- ☐ **DREADSTAR #13**
- ☐ **SIX FROM SIRIUS #2**

ASSORTED GOODIES

- ☐ **SUPERSPECIAL #32: THE MUPPETS TAKE MANHATTAN** — The complete adaptation of the new **Muppet** movie!
- ☐ **GRAPHIC NOVEL #11: DAZZLER: THE MOVIE** — **The Dazzler's** mutant powers are revealed to the world! Written by JIM SHOOTER, penciled by FRANK SPRINGER and inked by VINCE COLLETTA!

MARVEL languAGE

Send your letters to MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE
% Marvel Comics Group, 387 Park Avenue South, New York, New York 10016

Hey, gang! This month's letter column title comes from *Kenny Everhart* of Camden, Ohio. Many thanks, *Ken*, and may your tribe increase!

Dear **Jim** and **Mark**,

This is my second letter to your wonderful **MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE**. Every issue is just great. It gives all Marvel fans a sense of anticipation of things to come, and also gives us a chance to comment on Marvel comics in general. It's an open forum, which is terrific. The Newswatch page really thrilled me this month. **Howard's** back! And with **Steve Gerber** on the writing chores! I can't wait!

STARRIORS looks promising, and **Mike Chen** is a good choice for artist. He was my art teacher at the **Joe Kubert School of Cartoon and Graphic Art** for a while. I can tell you first hand that **Mike** really cares about his work and about the comics business.

The **Chris Claremont** interview was very informative and top notch. One question. If **Chris** feels that good comics writing is "maximum information through the minimum amount of copy," then why does he fill all the pages with so many captions?

I was glad to see the article on **Sal Buscema**. He's probably one of the most underrated artists working in comics today. I don't know why — his art is consistently top notch.

Now a few suggestions and comments. How about a **Forbush-Man** Limited Series? It would be a smashing success! I miss ol' **Irv** and a cover corner box just isn't enough! Another few characters who deserve a crack at their own titles would be **Hawkeye, Quicksilver**, and **the Scarlet Witch**. Well, keep us informed. Be seeing ya!

Dave Pfeil
52 Finger Street
Saugerties, NY 12477

Dear **MARVEL AGErs**,

MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE is positive, informative, and fun to read. I'm glad that you've shown enough wisdom not to bowl the reader over with hype. As a rule I'd say your articles let the product sell itself.

One thing that I've read time and time again in the pages of Marvel Comics is how nice the people are who work for you. Well, I've met some of you folks, and I've got to tell the rest of the world that you're right! I've met **Carol Kalish, Jo Duffy, Ron Frenz, Dave Cockrum**, and **Stan Lee** himself! They were all very nice, and **Ron** and **Jo** have a great sense of humor.

Have to close now. Looking forward to all your upcoming projects. Take care and keep 'em comin'.

Wendell Wolford
Route 3 Box 120
Fairmont, WV 26554

Will do, *Wendell!* But you didn't tell us where you met all those people! Was it at a comics convention near your hometown — or are you part of some regular Friday night poker game we don't know about?

Dear **MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE**,

I'm delighted to hear about **QUESTPROBE** and your new presence in the world of computers. I'm on a personal crusade to prove that comics aren't just for kids and I've been practicing through my home computer. I have a piece of software / hardware known as a modem. This piece of equipment connects my computer with others through the phone lines. There are BBS's, Bulletin Board Systems, which serve as mail and advertising for the use of the public. There are BBS's all over the world, some with special subject sections devoted to everything from science fiction discusions to dating services.

Thought you might like to know that on a board known as The Star System, run by a computer operator named **Darrin Cirillo**, I've started a sub board for comics! I've discovered fellow Marvel fans and introduced about seven new people to Marvel! I generally post a weekly comics list based on the Coming Attractions from **MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE** among personal comments and comics discussions, wherein we are currently discussing **the Vision's** slight ego problem.

I log onto this sytem under the name of **Nightcrawler**, and I've run into people with the same idea — one calls himself **Wolverine Claws**, and his sister, **Kitty Pryde**. I sign off with "Gotta Bamf" as any true **Nightcrawler** would! I've been plugging **SECRET WARS** and **Spidey's** new costume to all my sub board companions.

I've obtained permission from Star systems to give you the number of the BBS: (516) 698-7345. *This is for computer modem use only, so do not call by phone!* So if any **MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE** readers run across a modem, they can give us a call. I

am looking forward to buying the **Scott Adams** adventure games, and wish you all well. Gotta bamf!

Mark Bliss
Centre Island Road
Oyster Bay, NY 11771

Congratulations, fellow Nightcrawler, on spreading the Marvel message even farther through the nation-wide computer networks! Who says we're not taking over the world?

Dear **Jim** and **Mark**,

In MGM's movie, *The Ice Pirates*, Marvel Comics strike again! At the beginning when the ice pirates board a freighter they encounter an alien in a futuristic washroom. Clutched in its hands is none other than **Walt Simonson**'s Graphic Novel **THE STAR SLAMMERS**. This proves the universal appeal of Marvel comics!

Could you please explain how the alien got the Graphic Novel, which to me seemed the high point of the movie?

David Wong
Thunder Bay
CANADA

No doubt the alien lives near a comics shop, *David!*

Dear Gang,

Just glancing over my copy of **THE OFFICIAL HANDBOOK OF THE MARVEL UNIVERSE**. I noticed something wrong. Being an avid reader of **ROM**, my keen eye saw that the pictures of **Rom's** analyzer and neutralizer were switched!

But fear not, for I have come up with an explanation! **Wraiths**! Those sorcerous wraith witches cast a spell upon the pictures, causing them to change places. This would aid the sisters in confusing the people of Earth, making it easier for them to take over!

Ian Ford
1176 Devonshire Dr.
San Diego, Ca 92107

That's exactly what happened, *Ian!* You're no-prize should arrive in your mailbox shortly — unless the *Wraiths* get to it first!

Dear **Jim** and **Mark**,

I have always been a fan of Marvel Comics. I enjoy the characters, the artwork, and the storylines because you're always coming up with new angles. I have always had a few sore points with the comics industry because there have been few black super heroes, but I laud Marvel because you've been well ahead of your competitors in this department. I grew up with the **Black Panther**, **Power Man** and **the Falcon**, and I've come to like **James Rhodes**, as the new **Iron Man**. I feel that Marvel must now take a bold new step concerning these heroes. I propose that a gathering of black heroes be considered. It's only natural that at some point these people would be curious about each other and would wish to converse. I don't think it's unreasonable that they might throw a get-together, although I realize that a white artist or writer might have more trouble chronicling such an occurrence than a black creative team. Thanks for letting me speak my mind!

Bryan Bailey
Rte. 1, Box 246
56th and 104th
Grand Junction, MI 49056

Dear **Jim** and **Irving**,

I love it! I was just reading the letters column in **MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE** #15. "The **MARVEL AGE** RAGE PAGE" is the best name you've come up with so far! It captures the wit, style, and craziness that is Marvel. It fits perfectly.

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I think this magazine deserves a separate section devoted to news about Marvel Productions in California. Maybe even **Stan Lee** could write it himself. I'd like to know who the voices are of my favorite stars like **Spider-Man**, **Iceman** and **the Hulk**. You could preview new shows and run lists of past shows. It would be just plain funny, so do it!

Your history of Marvel section is excellent for those of us who want to find out about the past of this comics universe. I was born in 1968 and didn't get into comics until recently, so I find these articles extremely helpful. And I find **THE OFFICIAL MARVEL COMICS INDEX** a wonderful idea as well, and look forward to seeing it.

I can't wait to see how **Mark Lerer**'s **Decathlon** story comes out. I mean the story behind the story, too! I myself am thinking of becoming a writer or artist for Marvel when I grow up.

This is my first letter to Marvel. Bye for now!

Phillip Salomon
7221 W. 57th St.
Summit, IL 60501

Special note for the many of you who enjoyed looking at *Mark Lerer*'s *Decathlon* story in our New Talent Department! Looks like our super-powered Olympic athelete is on the way toward becoming a part of the Marvel Universe! As we speak, his origin story is being penciled by veteran comics great *Larry Lieber!* So keep your eyes peeled for this exciting event. As for *Mark* — he's so proud of the fantastic job *Larry*'s doing with his character that he's gotten a swelled head! If *Jim Salicrup* had problems before, *now* he's gotta contend with *Lerer*'s inflated ego!

In any case, you all stay well — and meet us right here next month! Til then, face front! ●

A NEW GENERATION OF SUPER-HEROES!

FOR READERS OF ALL GENERATIONS.

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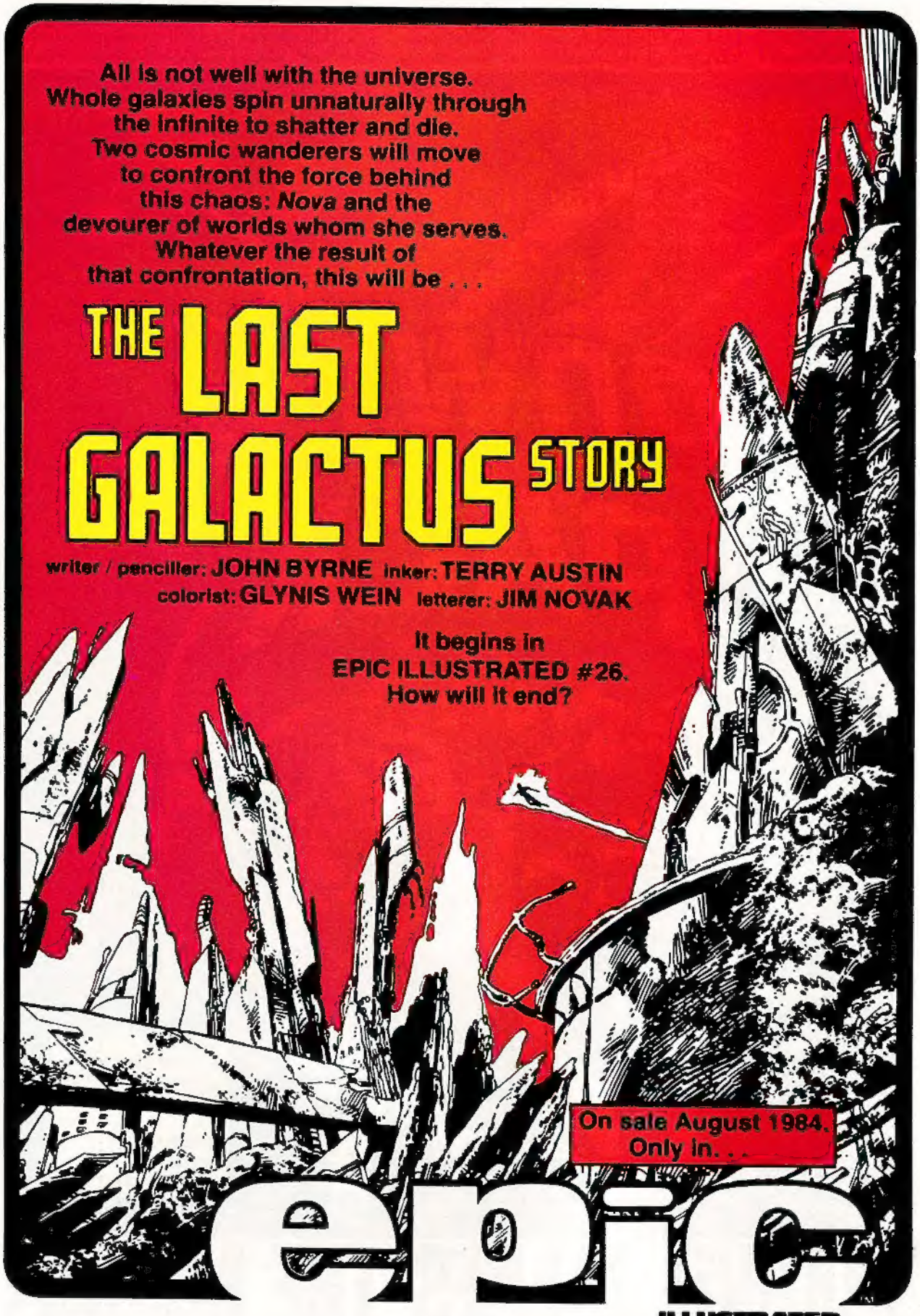
MARVEL MAKES THE MAGIC!


All is not well with the universe.
Whole galaxies spin unnaturally through the infinite to shatter and die.
Two cosmic wanderers will move to confront the force behind this chaos: *Nova* and the devourer of worlds whom she serves.
Whatever the result of that confrontation, this will be . . .
THE LAST GALACTUS STORY
writer / penciller: JOHN BYRNE inker: TERRY AUSTIN
colorist: GLYNIS WEIN letterer: JIM NOVAK
It begins in EPIC ILLUSTRATED #26.
How will it end?
On sale August 1984.
Only in. . .
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